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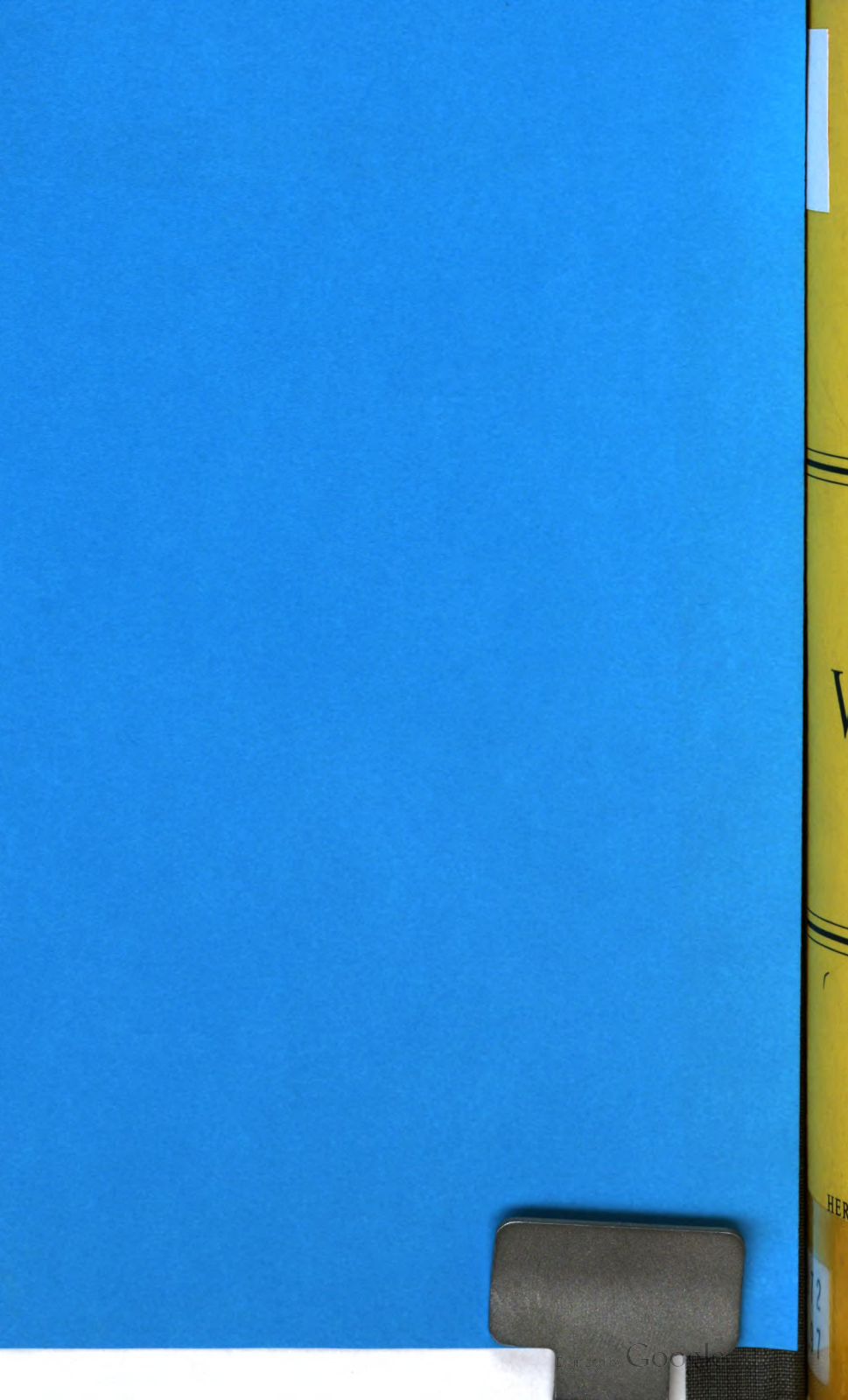
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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS





British Virgin Islands 1970

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Report for the year
1970

BENSON LATIN
AMERICAN COLLECTION
JUN 26 2003
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1973

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PART I

General Review 1970

ADMINISTRATION

THE affairs of the Territory were administered during 1970 by Mr J. S. Thomson, C.M.G., M.B.E., who held the post of Administrator since 14th April, 1967. In order to assist in the Administrative process, the post of Chief Secretary was created and filled in September, 1969, by Mr A. E. Penn, who assumed certain subjects falling within the general responsibility of the Administrator, under the Constitution.

POLITICAL

The Constitution of the Territory which was introduced in April, 1967 providing for the first time for the Ministerial system of Government, remained in full force and effect throughout 1970. The Administrator continued to be responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, the Administration of the Courts and Finance, and to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities. On other matters he is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Council comprises the Administrator as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) the Chief Minister appointed by the Administrator as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) one nominated member appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected Members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Much of the time of the Legislative Council was taken up with the necessary updating of the late nineteenth century legislation and in dealing with the inevitable problems arising from the phenomenal rate of economic growth during recent years and the consequent cultural and social development.

INTER VIRGIN ISLANDS RELATIONSHIPS

Relations between the British and American Virgin Islands continued to be cordial. There were no meetings of the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference during the period under review but visits were exchanged between the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Administrator of the British Virgin Islands. Public interest has been aroused recently about the desirability of resuscitating the Inter-Virgin Islands conference and there is strong feeling in Government circles in the British and American Virgin Islands that these meetings be resumed at a time and place to be mutually agreed upon.

THE ECONOMY

It could well be said that too much happened too quickly in the boom years of 1967-1969 and that the relative slowdown in all fields was a much needed pause for reassessing the potentialities and problems which faced the Territory in that stage of economic and constitutional development. Before tourism and its attendant benefits and difficulties came to the British Virgin Islands in 1967 the inhabitants were engaged largely in subsistent production of livestock and agriculture, the fishing industry, house building and the provision of public services. Some 10% of the population was employed in the United States Virgin Islands.

In 1967 the greater degree of self-government resulting from the introduction of a ministerial system, elected under the new Constitution, encouraged investment and a considerable amount of capital from the United States and Britain found its way to the British Virgin Islands in that year, and significant progress resulted in the construction industry. There was full employment and a stream of immigrant workers from other Caribbean islands began to fill the shortage of local labour. The task of improving the infrastructure of the Territory began in earnest. The first phase of the electricity scheme was completed by the installation of a new generating plant in Road Town and before the end of 1967 the second phase of carrying electricity to other parts of Tortola was started. The telephone system was improved and radio telephone communication to the other islands was installed. Early in 1967 the Government signed agreements with a commercial developer to provide a tourist centre on the island of Anegada including an airfield, a wharf and other public facilities, a hotel and shopping centre: and for the development of the Wickhams Cay area for residential and commercial use. This involved reclamation of land and new roads to relieve traffic congestion in Road Town.

The economy of the British Virgin Islands is estimated to have grown at the average rate of 20% per annum over the period 1966–1968 and 60% in 1969 as a result of tourism and the growth of the construction and related industries. Agriculture declined but other sectors of the economy grew significantly. A fourth bank was opened in the Territory in 1968 and local revenue and imports in 1968 trebled those in 1963.

The Territory's growth rate between 1955 and 1969 was considered to be the highest in the Caribbean and a major reason for it was the favourable treatment by the British Government in making aid available to the Territory and in allowing sterling investors to avoid the dollar premium. The favourable tax structure in the Territory and the overspill to the British Virgin Islands of the increasing United States tourist market were other important factors. The prognosis was good provided that tourism maintained its expansion rate and there was continued economic and political stability in the Caribbean.

But 1970 brought an unexpected recession in tourism in the Caribbean and a decline in long term bank financing which particularly affected the construction industries, a major source of employment. Development slowed down considerably. Many expatriate entrepreneurs left the Territory and immigration figures fell. The building of hotels and tourist enterprises was stopped. Money was in short supply, the cost of living rose and there was no longer full employment. The rate of economic growth was reduced to 17%. Disastrous floods in the Autumn of 1970 washed away much of the expensively built roads. The unfortunate social effects of the too rapid growth rate on the small community in 1966–1969 were instanced in the Government being forced, in the interests of the British Virgin Islanders, to decide to cancel by negotiation the agreements with the developer of Anegada and Wickhams Cay, and to take over the development projects as government controlled projects. This understandably deterred a number of other developers from investing in the Territory. They preferred to wait and see the effect of the Wickhams Cay and Anegada negotiations on the economy.

In spite of all these set-backs, much was achieved in 1970, nevertheless, particularly in the fields of the social services, public utilities and communications. Schools were rebuilt, enlarged and given additional facilities.

Improvements in the medical services included the appointment of more doctors and trained nurses, new hospital wards and the opening of a central public health clinic. Work on the airport and the deep water berth progressed. Roads, water supplies, drainage and sewage

disposal were all improved during the year and the completion of the electricity extension scheme was in sight.

Efforts at promoting tourism by the Tourist Board continued unabated. The largest modern resort is Little Dix Bay Hotel on Virgin Gorda with 132 beds, but the Territory as a whole offers a total of 500 beds in hotels and guest houses. The qualities of quiet, natural beauty and very good fishing and sailing brought an increasing number of people wanting to build homes in the islands so that some lands have changed hands at more than \$20,000 an acre. To regulate a situation where expatriates expressed interest in purchasing large plots of land often for purely speculative purposes the scope of the Aliens Land Holding Regulations was widened, and those who are allowed to buy land have to commit themselves to develop it within a reasonable period.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Until recently it was generally believed by the inhabitants that they can best help their native land by leaving it. People acted on that belief; a whole way of life developed around this urge to migrate, and this has resulted in the very slow population growth within the past few years. The effect of this migration is that a fair proportion of the money in circulation is generated by remittances from relatives of local residents living abroad, who are concerned above all else about maintaining their identity as Virgin Islanders. The events of 1970 and former years have not brought about any fundamental changes in attitudes or values. Physically the islands have changed; most of the amenities one associates with life in a modern community are now available, and to that extent the standard of life has improved. A subsistence agriculture has changed to tourism and for the average Virgin Islander his means of earning a living has changed but not the nature of his economic role. A large proportion of British Virgin Islanders are landowners and a family that does not own 2 acres of land is rare. To them the land has become more than the basic means of production; it is a symbol of their independence and the key to that independence. No real understanding of recent events in this Territory is possible unless the role that land plays in the psychology of the Virgin Islander is firmly grasped. Two such events in particular which occurred in 1970 should be seen against this background. Firstly the enquiry into the Wickhams Cay and Anegada Agreements following protests concerning land alienation and secondly the amendment of the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act which has been amended to extend to Commonwealth Citizens other than persons deemed to belong to the Territory. The principal

provision of the Act is that those persons to whom it applies may not own land in the Territory, neither leasehold or freehold, or as mortgagers or trustees, without first having obtained a licence. This represented an honest attempt by government to take steps to protect the essential character of the British Virgin Islands way of life against external pressures that were building up as a result of economic changes. The newcomer to the islands who obtains a licence and buys a piece of land may now do so without fear of resentment by local residents who feel that their land is being taken over. In a Territory with a coloured population, where the economy revolves around the tourist industry, where every household has at least one member resident in the continental United States and another in the American Virgin Islands it would be surprising if there were no local echoes resulting from the great racial awakening of a section of the American population. There certainly is, but in these islands there is no Black Power Movement as such and any group consciousness of colour expresses itself in a desire to maintain and preserve what the islanders have (ownership of land, effective control of their institutions and of the economic life of the Territory) rather than in aggression.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The number of pensionable and contract Civil Servants increased during the period under review from 59 in 1969 to 228 in 1970.

The implementation in 1966 of the review of Civil Service salaries carried out by A. G. H. Gardner-Brown failed to induce enough interest among British Virgin Islanders for sufficient numbers to seek employment in the Public Service. Salary levels remain inadequate compared with those in operation in business and commerce. A further review of the salaries and conditions of service of the B.V.I. Civil Service was successfully completed in October, 1968 by F. N. M. Pusinelli and revised emoluments were made payable from 1st January, 1969.

HONOURS

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments:

Birthday Honours, 1970

Mr McWelling Todman, O.B.E.

Mr Bregado Flax, M.B.E.

Mr G. Cecil Rymer, M.B.E.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the British Virgin Islands was 7,340 in 1960, as recorded by the census taken that year, distributed as follows:

Tortola	6,262
Virgin Gorda	562
Anegada	269
Jost Van Dyke	173
Other Islands	74
Total	<hr/> 7,340 <hr/>

Preliminary figures for the 1970 census are as follows:

Tortola	8,939
Virgin Gorda	1,025
Anegada	269
Jost Van Dyke	124
Other Islands	106
Total	<hr/> 10,463 <hr/>

A breakdown of the figure for Tortola in 1970 is as follows:

Road Town	2,183
East End—Long Look	1,847
The rest	4,909
Total	<hr/> 8,939 <hr/>

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour

ORGANISATION

UNSKILLED, semi-skilled and a limited amount of skilled labour is available in the Territory. A certain amount of immigrant labour is permitted, providing the following requirements are met:

- (1) There is no British Virgin Islander available for the particular job;
- (2) Good clean police records are produced;
- (3) Good health certificates are produced;
- (4) Return passage to the worker's home is guaranteed by the employer or the employee.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance (No. 1 of 1953) allows a proportion of hotel employees to be expatriates, as Government is aware that certain posts which require skills or technical ability are not available locally and therefore expatriates must fill them until such time as local Virgin Islanders are trained. In 1970, a total of 2,777 work permits and 87 permits to carry on business were issued to expatriates.

There is legislation, the Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, which sets out the procedure for wage fixing in the Territory and the Act (No. 21 of 1937) Section 2 states *inter alia*:

- (1) Whenever the Administrator deems it expedient that steps should be taken to regulate the wages paid in any occupation in the Colony he may, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint an Advisory Committee to investigate the conditions of employment in such occupation and to make recommendations as to the minimum rates of wages which should be payable.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall include representatives of employees and such other members as the Administrator may deem fit.

The minimum wage rates currently paid by the Government of the British Virgin Islands for an eight hour day are as follows:

Unskilled from 6-00 dollars to 8-00 dollars

Skilled from 9-00 dollars to 12-00 dollars

However, contractors and other private employers pay higher rates so as to attract the best workmen. They pay from 8-00 dollars to 10-00 dollars for unskilled and from 12-00 dollars to 16-00 dollars and in a few cases 18-00 for skilled workers.

The main sources of employment are to be found in: The Public Service, Education, Construction and Engineering, Commercial services and Distribution, Hotel, Transport and Fishing industries, Banks and the manufacturing industry. Unemployment figures in 1970 averaged 300, one tenth of whom were British Virgin Islanders and nine tenths of persons from other Caribbean Islands.

The need to implement an industrial training scheme to mobilise and train young persons is recognised by Government if the growing demands for technical workers are to be supplied from local sources. In the absence of Government training centres, the training of apprentices and adult workers remains in the hands of private industry.

At present there are no Trade Unions in the B.V.I. Under the Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950) a Labour Commissioner was appointed whose duty consists in ensuring that laws affecting labour

are duly enforced including the settlement of Labour Disputes and seeing that workmen work under sanitary conditions and that they are properly paid under the existing wage rates. 86 labour disputes were recorded in 1970. Unemployment benefits do not exist, but a Social Security Scheme is planned. There is legislation covering Workmen's Compensation in the event of injury sustained at work. During 1970 six industrial accidents were reported and the total compensation claims amounts to \$4,981.11. No case of occupational disease was reported.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE BUDGET

UP to the outbreak of the Second World War the B.V.I. boasted a balanced budget and invested surpluses in spite of a low standard of services available to the people. The genesis, a few years after the war, of a deliberate policy of putting the budget into deficit to be made up by grants-in-aid of administration and the receipt of Development and Welfare grants from Her Majesty's Government marked a turning point in the finances of the B.V.I.

During the period 1956-1960 local revenue never exceeded 46% of the budget and in those years rose only from \$164,000 to \$180,000. Grants-in-aid fluctuated between 54% and 71% of total expenditure, reaching a peak in 1961. While there was an upward trend in revenue, a steep rise in expenditure to improve and increase services created a fiscal situation in which deficit spending would apparently always be the rule.

During the period 1967-1969 receipts from local revenue increased progressively. Although the Territory experienced spectacular economic growth, Government could not meet its recurrent commitments from its own revenues. Despite Devaluation in 1967 and the pressure which was placed on Britain's finances and her entire monetary system, Grant-in-Aid figures for 1967 showed some increase over 1966. This was, however, effectively reduced in 1968.

Government's recurrent expenditure also showed a steady increase, due mainly to the fact that 1967 was the year of Constitutional changes which brought about the introduction of the Ministerial system and also in view of the general increase in the level of economic activity in the Territory, it was necessary for certain minor tax alterations to be effected to earn extra funds needed

to meet the recurrent budget. No major revision of the fiscal structure was considered at the time as the Report of the newly appointed Fiscal Review Committee was awaited. The division of the budget between local revenue and grants-in-aid over the years 1967 to 1970 is as follows:

	1967 \$	1968 \$	1969 \$	1970 \$
Local Revenue.	1,220,000	1,737,516	2,145,926	3,141,277
Grants-in-Aid .	345,000	266,400	210,000	Nil (planned)

The infrastructure of the Territory was in urgent need of an infusion of capital so that its development could keep pace with the rapidly growing development in the private sector.

Expenditure for 1967 to 1970 were as follows:

	1967 \$	1968 \$	1969 \$	1970 \$
Recurrent Expenditure .	1,418,429	1,726,274	2,542,314	3,450,285
Capital Expenditure .	657,130	1,450,191	1,130,044	3,335,954
Total . . .	2,075,559	3,176,465	3,672,358	6,786,239

In 1970, there was a considerable increase in local revenue and import duties continued to be the major source of income. Recurrent expenditure however also increased steadily as a result of increased economic activity and exceeded local revenue by \$306,008. Development aid and local loans replaced grants-in-aid, External Loans, Overseas Service Aid and C.D. & W. Aid.

TAXATION

Towards the end of 1967 Government appointed a Committee to review the fiscal structure of the Territory and to make recommendations. The Committee submitted its report to Government in July, 1968 and its recommendations were studied by the B.V.I. Government and the Government of the United Kingdom.

Among the proposals which were accepted by Government were changes in Income Tax—Tax is chargeable at the rate of 3% on total income and an additional 12% is proposed after deduction of generous allowances. As regards income from abroad double taxation relief treaties have been in effect for some time between the Territory and the U.K., Canada, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden and

Switzerland. In 1970 negotiations were in progress for the revision of the treaty with the U.K. Arrangements also exist for the grant of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries which offer similar reciprocal relief. Property taxes were charged during 1970 to differentiate between expatriate and indigenous owners. The annual rates were increased for all taxpayers and are now:

<i>Land Tax</i>	<i>Expatriate Owners</i>	<i>Indigenous Owners</i>
First acre or part acre	\$20	\$3
Subsequent acre or part acre	\$10	\$1
House Tax	1½% on notional annual value	

Details of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1967–1970 are as follows:

REVENUE				
	1967	1968	1969	1970
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Customs & Excise.	445,799	687,700	946,917	1,115,372
Harbour & Wharf Dues	9,176	19,500	19,310	24,077
Taxes & Licences	156,978	228,733	513,066	834,252
Fines & Forfeitures	4,054	4,000	5,774	14,228
Govt. Depts & Services	202,778	80,725	436,368	185,792
Post Office	134,615	145,734	171,087	278,911
Rent of Govt. Property	24,158	21,800	40,103	62,413
Interest	6,285	6,300	5,276	21,641
Miscellaneous	41,992	7,800	8,025	158,355
Land Sales	2,946	904	—	—
Other Sources (incl. loan funds)	187,801	534,320	—	—
Electricity	—	—	—	446,236
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE:	1,219,562	1,737,516	2,145,926	3,141,277
From United Kingdom Grant-in-Aid (Recurrent)	334,555	266,400	210,000	—
C.D. & W. Schemes	199,604	522,297	397,968	—
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	24,612	32,248	34,033	—
Grant-in-Aid (Capital)	225,445	—	—	—
Development Aid	—	—	—	1,247,366
Local Loan	—	—	—	1,963,799
	2,013,778	2,558,461	2,960,334	6,352,442

EXPENDITURE

	1967	1968	1969	1970
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Administration . . .	86,868	93,589	182,259	258,032
Legal & Judicial . . .	28,358	35,018	47,504	70,660
Police & Fire Brigade . . .	68,322	94,734	183,514	200,664
Finance . . .	161,497	210,955	370,437	726,711
Audit . . .	8,355	16,991	7,754	17,329
Chief Minister's Office . . .	26,428	67,291	125,261	127,586
Legislature . . .	26,856	20,627	32,360	30,769
Education . . .	254,810	302,837	524,460	615,411
Ministry of Natural Resources . . .	75,185	91,138	111,011	139,314
Public Health . . .	151,430	173,960	262,732	444,894
Miscellaneous . . .	142,963	—	—	—
Ministry of Communications Works & Industry . . .	285,196	300,159	449,714	108,638
Electricity Department . . .	63,085	278,447	182,828	284,553
Overseas Service Aid Scheme . . .	39,078	40,528	62,480	—
Public Works . . .	—	—	Nil	425,724
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE . . .	1,418,431	1,726,274	2,542,314	3,450,285
Capital Expenditure . . .	657,130	1,450,191	1,130,044	3,335,954
TOTAL . . .	2,075,561	3,176,465	3,672,358	6,786,239

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE Territory is in a unique currency position, sole legal tender being the United States dollar, although the Territory is part of the sterling area. The currency of the United States of America had been de facto currency in general circulation for almost two decades before it became legal tender in 1959. The Territory itself had no exchange control restrictions and dollars may be freely transferred in or out. Special regulations govern the conversion of sterling area currencies into dollars for use in the Territory but every assistance is given to genuine investors to facilitate the conversion of sterling. Applications for such conversions must be made to the Administrator who forwards recommended applications to the United Kingdom Exchange Control Authorities for approval. Sterling area conversions which gain such approval may be carried out without payment of the investment dollar premium. Such conversions in 1969 totalled \$6.7 m. In 1970 they amounted to \$2.6 m.

Visitors from the sterling area may cash up to £250 in travellers cheques per month or on each visit to the Territory. They may not, however, operate dollar bank accounts without Exchange Control Approval. There are now four commercial banks in the Territory: the Virgin Islands National Bank (established May, 1961), Barclays Bank, D.C.O. (established 1965), the Bank of Nova Scotia (established 1969) and the Chase Manhattan Bank (established 1968). The following table shows the growth of advances and deposits in these banks since 1967:

Commercial Banks—Advances and Deposits 1967–1970

(figures in \$000)

	<i>End 1967</i>	<i>End 1968</i>	<i>End 1969</i>	<i>End 1970</i>
Total Deposits . . .	4,963	8,406	20,026	25,259
Total Advances . . .	3,698	8,977	17,481	20,949

The majority of the advances are in respect of Conventional Mortgage loans and Personal loans, although loans for construction purposes, commercial bridging finance and loans to Government showed substantial increase over the period 1967–1969. During 1970 there was a progressive reduction in long-term financing by the Banks. Interest rates on advances are normally between 1% and 2½% above the Federal Reserve Rate in the United States of America.

Chapter 5: Commerce

IN spite of a preferential tariff for imports from Commonwealth countries, the trade of the Territory is carried on principally with the United States of America and its Caribbean possessions, exports being confined almost entirely to the United States Virgin Islands. However, the introduction of direct shipping services with the U.K. 1968 and certain Eastern Caribbean Countries in 1969, and the effect of devaluation of sterling in 1967, have effected an increase in the proportion of imports originating in Commonwealth countries and the United Kingdom at a time when imports have grown rapidly. The direction of trade was as table on facing page (p. 15).

The Territory continued to have a substantial and increasing adverse trade balance, offset by tourists receipts, capital inflows, remittances of British Virgin Islanders working abroad, earnings of trading sloops and by grants from British funds in the form of Grants-in-Aid of Administration and Colonial Development and Welfare

Countries	Imports \$000				Exports \$000			
	1966	1967	1968	1969	1966	1967	1968	1969
U.S.A., Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands .	2,003	2,583	4,416	4,285	157	73	116	47
U.K. .	779	743	1,377	1,870	—	1	—	—
Leeward Islands .	17	14	37	35	—	2	—	—
Other Commonwealth Countries .	201	223	313	1,022	—	—	—	2
Other Foreign Countries .	143	327	456	887	—	11	29	1
TOTALS: .	3,143	3,890	6,599	8,099	157	87	145	50

grants. Imports to the Territory for 1970 were increased to \$10,223,574 while exports dropped again to \$42,608. The following table shows an analysis of the principal imported items:

1970 Principal Imports

	Total Value Imports	Imports From U.K.	U.K. % of Total Imports
	\$	\$	\$
Machinery & Accessories .	229,691	50,958	22.17
Machinery other .	417,380	154,150	36.93
Electronic Goods & Apparatus .	75,706	64,536	85.52
Reinforcing Iron .	245,938	58,315	23.17
Trucks and Jeeps .	401,743	224,180	55.72
Wood & Timber— (Manufactured) .	292,648	36,096	12.28
Motor Cars .	330,183	90,085	27.27
Implements & Tools .	49,388	13,265	26.53

Facilities for the handling of ocean going vessels of up to 600 ft. were being constructed throughout 1970 at an area opposite Purcell Village while freighters continued to anchor midway in the harbour and discharge cargo by means of a lighterage service. The vessels which ply regularly to Tortola are from the Booker Line, sailing from Liverpool, The Royal Netherlands Dutch Line (K.N.S.M.), sailing from Europe, and Atlantic and Florida Lines from the United States of America. When the deep-water harbour project is completed, the present facilities will be available exclusively for the use of passenger traffic.

**SUMMARY OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS OF
THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1970**

	\$
(a) <i>Total Imports</i>	10,223,574
(b) <i>Total Exports</i>	42,608
(c) <i>Total Re-Exports</i>	22,720
(d) <i>Summary of Imports</i>	
United Kingdom	2,284,958
Canada	82,036
Leeward Islands	13,327
Windward Islands	5,913
Other British Countries	897,027
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	5,165,863
Other Foreign Countries	1,774,451
(e) <i>Summary of Exports</i>	
United Kingdom	Nil
Canada	Nil
Leeward Islands	70
Windward Islands	Nil
Other British Countries	Nil
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	41,488
Other Foreign Countries	1,050
Total	42,608
(f) <i>Summary of Re-Exports</i>	
United Kingdom	Nil
Canada	Nil
Leeward Islands	Nil
Windward Islands	Nil
Other British Countries	Nil
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	22,720
Other Foreign Countries	Nil
Total	22,720

FOREIGN TABLE

Year	F.O.B.	Imports % Increase	Exports F.O.B.	Re-Exports F.O.B.	Balance
1966	3,143	6.1	157	67	-2,919
1967	3,890	23.8	88	12	-3,790
1968	6,599	69.6	145	9	-6,445
1969	8,099	22.7	50	13	-8,036
1970	10,224	21.1	43	23	-10,158

VALUE OF IMPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES INTO
THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
	£	£	£	£	£
Wheaten Flour	39,882.08	45,121.83	48,002.62	55,047.64	67,025.33
Cornmeal (Maize)	2,641.81	3,158.88	2,479.50	1,837.08	1,540.07
Rice	20,627.14	25,166.46	65,162.44	33,685.04	46,301.34
Bread & Biscuits	23,165.11	27,086.37	29,116.38	47,434.54	44,024.15
Butter & Substitutes	18,932.50	23,183.57	25,122.21	27,983.04	37,849.37
Edible Oils	15,184.22	19,912.22	27,641.09	33,459.93	38,057.31
Lards & Substitutes	6,853.34	6,002.27	5,440.83	8,391.36	9,902.23
Preserved Milks	50,213.01	59,719.31	67,587.98	96,237.17	132,714.26
Cheese	15,315.72	15,912.25	19,087.63	24,847.12	29,645.23
Preserved Fish	17,880.81	20,336.72	22,234.98	38,053.37	38,374.63
Fruit & Vegetables	35,194.69	50,530.52	41,332.69	54,453.45	60,811.95
Preserved Meat	75,003.29	76,158.09	63,638.74	103,363.15	96,229.25
Coffee	5,235.29	11,090.07	13,179.95	22,526.41	25,086.33
Tea	1,721.60	1,433.16	1,386.16	3,860.96	3,238.01
Cocoa	2,931.37	3,557.92	4,396.82	4,376.15	4,046.74
Sugar	37,063.63	42,319.75	37,489.29	54,709.43	51,961.78
Animal Feeding Stuff	35,909.23	33,423.38	37,234.13	33,960.68	42,475.26

Chapter 6: Production

Industrial

The main industry of the British Virgin Islands is tourism and its constituent services such as hotels, guest-houses, restaurants, gift shops, clubs, marinas, motor launches, yachts, aircraft, motor vehicles and, to a lesser extent, riding animals, such as horses and donkeys. There is a considerable amount of construction in progress in the form of hotels, guest-houses and residence in the private sector, while the construction of roads, extension of electricity and water supply are being undertaken by Government.

Agriculture and Fisheries

Most Virgin Islanders own land, and those who farm it do so individually or as a family venture. A number of self-employed men throughout the Territory engage in fishing, both for home consumption and export to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands. Agriculture is, however, generally declining.

Agricultural Department

The total expenditure of the Department for 1970 was \$63,950, a substantial increase over the 1969 figure of \$29,409.

Due to the departure of the Livestock Officer late in 1967, the two divisions of the Department, namely Livestock and Crops Divisions, have since been the responsibility of the Superintendent of Agriculture. The staff includes four agricultural officers, one forestry officer and two clerks.

The activities of the Department continue to include: the provision of planting material for crop husbandry, the improvement and extension of pastures, the protection of forest and conservation of soil and water, the encouragement of fishing largely through the medium of a Loan Scheme, and the fostering of livestock production by providing breeding stock to farmers and encouraging good animal husbandry.

Weather Conditions

The total rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station for 1970 was 62.02 inches, as compared with 67.11 inches in 1969. The heaviest showers were experienced from October to December. The highest daily rainfall recorded was 5.40 inches on the 7th October.

During 1970, rainfall was considered to be both evenly distributed as well as being a generous supply. This has had an obvious effect on the local water supply within the Territory.

A statement of monthly rainfall figures of the years 1961–1970 as recorded at the Agricultural Station, is set out at the end of this chapter.

Agricultural Production

Sugar Cane: The production of sugar cane is steadily declining. The small area which is left is used for both chewing and rum manufacturing.

Limes: The production of limes is being encouraged. There is a growing demand for limes, both locally and in the export market; and prices paid can be said to be good. During 1970 125 barrels, as compared with 163 barrels in 1969 were produced.

Coconuts: There was a continued decrease in the export of coconuts because of local consumption.

Bananas: The export of bananas showed an increase during 1970; 1,974 bunches were exported as compared with 838 bunches in 1969. The local market was adequately supplied throughout the year.

Food Crops: Because of good weather conditions and improved marketing opportunities the production of food crops in 1970 was increased.

Animal Husbandry

General: The Department's activities continued at a high standard during 1970. All stock which showed good breeding potential were sold to farmers and the undesirable to butchers. The breeding programme in 1970 was aimed towards further development of the Red Poll.

Production: The production of livestock has been maintained at a high level. The local market was fully supplied. The production of sheep was steadily increased. There are three privately owned poultry farms and every effort is made to increase poultry farming throughout the Territory.

Health: There are eleven Dipping Vats in the Territory and the livestock in general remained satisfactory in 1970.

Exports: The export of livestock continued, both to St Thomas and to the French West Indies. The following tables show the analysis of

livestock export according to type and sex. The decrease in the export of cattle results from a higher local consumption.

Prices ranged from 20–25¢ per lb. liveweight for cattle, 40–50¢ per lb. for sheep and 28–33¢ per lb. for pigs.

TABLE I
Exports 1968–1970

<i>Species</i>	<i>St Thomas</i>			<i>French West Indies</i>			<i>Total Exports</i>		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Cattle .	139	61	3	295	44	6	434	105	9
Sheep .	135	6	139	—	—	—	135	6	139
Goats .	37	3	15	—	—	—	37	3	15
Swine .	106	27	—	—	—	—	106	27	—
	417	97	157	295	44	6	712	141	163

TABLE II
*Exports to St Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands—
Type and Sex Analysis, 1969 and 1970*

<i>Species</i>	<i>Sex</i>	1969	1970
Cattle	Bulls	35	—
	Heifers	15	—
	Cows	11	3
Sheep	Rams	4	55
	Ewes	2	77
Goats	Bucks	1	1
	Does	2	10

Stock Farm: During 1970 the stock farm was run by a Chief Stockman and one permanent labourer. A number of labourers were employed from time to time. Work included maintenance and up-grading of a herd of cattle. A flock of sheep and a Jack were also maintained.

Agricultural Credit: Loans issued and repayments made during 1969 and 1970 were as follows:

Old Scheme (Agricultural Credit Fund)

1969	1970
2 Loans —\$1,400·00	4 Loans —\$2,800·00
Repayments—\$5,193·38	Repayments— \$748·58

New Scheme (Pasture Improvement Fund)

1969	1970
7 Loans —\$5,200-00	5 Loans —\$3,600-00
Repayments—\$3,363-83	Repayments— \$690-67

Fishing: There was an adequate supply of fish for local use as well as for export to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Fisheries Credit: The number of loans issued and repayments made in 1969 and 1970 was as follows:

1969	1970
3 Loans —\$2,450-00	Nil Loans
Repayments—\$1,305-06	Repayments—\$669-01

Forestry: Forestry in the Territory was carried out mainly by the National Parks Trust and the emphasis in 1970 was mainly on the re-establishment of the Mount Sage National Park where a total of 3,000 trees were planted in 1970. Soil and water conservation continued in 1970 with the construction of terraces on slopes where agriculture exists and in policing of water areas.

Agricultural Shows: With improved weather conditions, it was possible to hold shows at three different places: Tortola; Jost Van Dyke and Virgin Gorda. These shows were extremely successful and exhibits were outstanding both in the way of handicraft and fruits, vegetables and livestock.

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES FROM THE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Limes . . .	437-00	309-50	354-00	452-50	214-00
Bananas . . .	1,684-00	2,137-00	1,344-00	1,441-00	3,386-20
Coconuts . . .	7,885-50	4,472-00	2,978-20	1,858-00	1,994-75
Livestock . . .	18,799-00	29,620-00	44,985-00	7,615-00	5,805-00
Fish . . .	31,322-10	32,598-00	87,829-00	23,756-00	21,607-00

Surveys: Surveys became part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health portfolio on the 1st July, 1968. A Government Surveyor was appointed and was attached to the Public Works Department. The Principal Surveyor Officer, British Development Division, visited the Territory in October 1968 and discussed the

requirements of a full Cadastral Survey. He advised that it was necessary for Government to consider the enactment of proper legislation; and that there should be a central department for surveyors, who could then be seconded to any project or department. As a result, the British Virgin Islands Government made an application for British Technical Assistance for provision of an expert to be appointed as Land Surveyor and Titles Officer, to be attached to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health for eighteen months, to advise on the setting up of a Lands and Survey Department and to assist the Ministry in its survey requirements.

The first member of the Cadastral Survey Team, the Cartographer and the Leader of the Team arrived in September 1970 and preliminary work on this project was started. As the Government Surveyor left the Territory in June 1970 and had not so far been replaced, the Cadastral Team leader was invited to act as Government Surveyor in an advisory capacity. A team from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys continued in 1970 the work started in 1969 of setting up a triangulation framework for the cadastral survey. They had also advised on survey matters following the departure of the Government Surveyor.

In 1970, three bills were enacted by the Legislative Council in connection with the surveys. The Land Surveyor's Bill, the Registered Land Ordinance and the Land Adjudication Bill. A Board of Survey was set up.

While most of the inhabitants of the Territory are land owners, few of them hold clear titles. The Cadastral survey should result in an up to date register of undisputable titles.

Land Utilisation and Tenure: With the development of the tourist industry and the decline in agriculture in the Territory came changes in the utilisation and tenure of land. Many sites were purchased or leased by persons from outside the Territory for hotels and guest-houses, apartments and cottages as well as for commercial offices. The Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act requires non-British subjects to obtain a licence to hold land. In 1970 The Restricted Persons (Commonwealth Citizens) Land Holding Regulation Ordinance was enacted. This extended the licence requirement to all persons who are not British Virgin Islanders.

Mining: During the year there were several enquiries from companies interested in mining at the Copper Mine area in Virgin Gorda or in exploring for off-shore minerals, gas and oil. The Territory sought advice from the U.K. Government on the provision of suitable legislation for such activities.

RAINFALL 1961-1970

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1961	3.14	2.54	1.47	2.01	1.20	1.72	3.25	4.77	1.64	6.71	8.48	5.05	41.98
1962	3.53	1.43	2.11	2.57	7.34	6.39	3.11	5.46	6.62	4.73	1.88	2.68	47.85
1963	1.84	2.29	4.10	2.49	4.13	1.34	4.48	11.65	4.47	2.75	2.56	0.55	42.65
1964	3.43	1.33	2.25	2.56	1.96	1.32	3.50	4.03	2.85	3.90	2.49	2.13	31.75
1965	1.68	0.49	0.66	4.08	11.61	2.98	4.11	4.77	4.43	5.53	3.99	4.05	48.38
1966	4.34	1.91	1.99	7.54	1.28	2.88	5.63	4.06	6.59	5.64	5.38	3.85	51.09
1967	1.36	2.63	0.45	0.30	4.03	3.44	2.33	2.43	2.60	6.26	7.29	1.70	34.82
1968	1.98	2.75	2.56	2.28	3.02	5.00	3.48	2.12	5.87	8.17	7.95	6.64	51.82
1969	3.61	7.77	0.82	0.62	16.28	4.12	3.13	7.46	3.53	5.66	11.57	2.54	67.11
1970	1.30	1.98	—	2.49	4.90	2.40	4.13	2.55	4.45	20.10	9.09	8.63	62.02

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

THE Chief Minister is the Minister responsible for Education. He is advised by a Board of Education which met four times during 1970. This Board has power to make Regulations dealing with all matters affecting education in the territory, with the proviso that all Regulations so prepared shall have no force until they have been approved by the Administrator in Council. The British Virgin Island High School Committee advises on matters concerning the High School but has no executive powers. The Primary Schools Commission which met four times is advisory to the Minister but has powers to deal with all questions of staff management and discipline in primary schools in accordance with Regulations made under the Ordinance. The Chief Education Officer is Chairman of each of these Committees and also Secretary of the Board of Education. In this way the activities of all three bodies are coordinated.

Much time was spent in the earlier part of the year in drafting a revision of the Education Ordinance and relevant Regulations. Pressure of business later in the year prevented a finalisation of the Draft.

The increased salary scales which came into effect on 1st January, 1969 made it possible to obtain (and keep) the services of a certain number of qualified members of staff of the High School and the primary schools. It was still difficult, however, to obtain British Virgin Islanders with suitably high academic qualifications for posts in the primary schools; and the percentage of trained teachers remained far too low; at 30%. There were special difficulties in appointing teachers with the variety of qualifications needed for teaching in the High School.

Costs of education have risen sharply. There was an increase of \$218,729 (62%) in the 1970 recurrent budget due mainly to the increased salaries. Entry to the High School remained non-selective but in 1970 a fair number of children over the age of 12 who were eligible for entry were retained, at their parents' wish, for a further year in their district all-age primary schools so as better to consolidate their basic work in literacy and numeracy. The cost per pupil in primary schools (excluding capital outlay, maintenance of buildings

and pensions of teachers) was about U.S. \$184 per annum, while the cost in the High School was about \$370 per annum. This latter cost does not represent a full year's cost since there was considerable physical expansion, with the resultant pupil and staff expansion, in the 1970 September term. The Smedwig Trust made a gift of \$40,000 to provide an additional technical block at the British Virgin Islands High School. Also given was a scholarship of \$1,200, for either a 3- or a 4-year University Award.

Primary Education

School attendance figures for 1970 show a high attendance. At 31st December there were 1,935 children enrolled in the primary and post primary sections of the "primary" schools. The proportion of pupils to teachers in the primary schools was, by West Indian standards, generous, at about 25 to 1.

During the year several generous awards were made to enable teachers to attend Training Colleges or other institutions of higher learning abroad. The major development in primary schools in 1970 was the rebuilding of six schools formerly housed in Methodist Churches. In January grants of \$160,000 (£66,667) were received from the ODA for the rebuilding and equipping of the schools at Baugher's Bay, Sea Cow Bay, North Sound and Jost Van Dyke. It was possible to occupy three of these schools before the year ended. In teacher training, the British Development Division in the Caribbean provided six scholarships in 1970 at the L.I.T.T.C.

Efforts were made during the year to stimulate fresh thinking at the primary level in various subject areas. In August, a successful two week course in the teaching of The Language Arts, financed by the Development Division with the cooperation of the British Council, was organised by the Education Department. About 35 primary teachers attended. The Course gave special emphasis to work with infants and juniors and included displays of children's work and teaching apparatus, as well as a generous gift of text and class books from the British Council.

During July-August advantage was taken by Government of invitations to send teachers to special courses organised in other islands with financial and staffing assistance provided for them by the British Development Division.

In addition, the B.V.I. was included in the CEDO Scheme for the development of science, particularly at the post primary level (for age groups of about 11 to 13). The CEDO project is to be tested in two schools, namely, the B.V.I. High School and the St Mary's School, Virgin Gorda, which still has a comparatively large post primary

section. A three man UNESCO team visited the British Virgin Islands in early December in connection with the UNESCO/UWI Regional Project in Curriculum and Teacher Education. The UWI Institute of Education Inservice Course continues under the general supervision of the Institute of Education Consultant.

The Chief Minister and the Chief Education Officer visited the Development Division in Barbados during the year to stress the need for additional resources of finance and personnel. As a result of their representations, it was possible to obtain substantial grants for new school buildings, and improvements and scholarship awards. Visits continued to be paid by the public health nurse. Pupils in all primary schools and the High School had regular days for attendance at the dental clinic. Reports on health and dental care were satisfactory.

The British Virgin Islands High School

The year 1970 saw major developments in this comprehensive secondary school. It had not been possible through lack of accommodation to admit any new pupils in the school year beginning September 1969, so that the 1970 intake which represented a two years' backlog included a number of older pupils, of widely differing academic levels and interests, who had to be carefully classified and absorbed. The opportunity was taken as a result of a study of all the pupils in the school to regroup all 788 pupils old and new.

The school was fortunate in the appointment in September 1970 of a new Principal with Training College and University qualifications who had had years of experience working in a technical school, and training in "Comprehensive" type schooling. There were many problems of staffing as eight members of staff left before or during the term, some on completion of contract, and some on scholarship awards which were announced late. It was possible, however, to appoint eight graduates, seven staff with specialist qualifications and four assistants, so that the work of the school could be adequately conducted. To assist in the overall administration and supervision of the school, three of the Heads of Departments were given additional responsibilities as Assistant Principals. The effects of the reorganisation were soon evident in much improved discipline and by the end of the year staff and pupils had settled down to become a "Community".

The appointment of an Office Manager, in addition to the Clerk, relieved the Principal of many of the minor time-consuming tasks of administration.

This reorganisation of the school would not have been possible without the provision of the additional workrooms, classrooms,

equipment and furniture of all kinds obtained from the British Development Division grants of:

- (a) \$10,000 for a technical workshop block;
- (b) \$16,000 for a perimeter fence; and
- (c) \$173,000 for an upper floor of the building provided under (a) above as well as for a new 2 storey block.

The school now has in addition to its remodelled administration block, three science laboratories, three Home Economics rooms, one metalwork room, two woodwork rooms, two drawing offices, a music room, nine additional classrooms (to make a total of 29 classrooms), a room for handicrafts and a library. Funds were also secured locally to do almost a complete repainting of the former buildings and a general clean-up of the grounds. Internal improvements were made to staff rooms, washrooms, and small offices provided for the Assistant Principals.

Work was commenced on rethinking the curriculum, particularly for the less able or less interested pupils. A very definite weakness exists in literacy: the appointment of a VSO with special training in remedial education and the secondment of an experienced headmistress of a primary school were steps taken to give special help.

Early in the year the Chief Education Officer with the assistance of two members of the Institute of Education Staff organised a conference with Heads of Departments and Divisions. This was followed by meetings of Departments to discuss general aspects of a Curriculum suitable for a Comprehensive School.

The principal and senior members of the staff (particularly the Heads of Departments) met frequently to discuss details of organisation and administration. Much thought was given to ways of improving discipline and control and to providing a widening variety of educational experience at all levels of the school.

A party of High School Staff, led by the Chief Education Officer, visited the Charlotte Amalie High School in February to study its administration.

As a follow up to this visit, discussions took place at joint meetings of the B.V.I. High School Committee, the Board of Education and the B.V.I. High School Staff, with the Chief Minister, to see what further improvements might be made to the physical plant and the curriculum of the High School. A working Party was set up for further discussions but these became unnecessary because of the considerable replanning that followed in the September term under the new Principal.

Extra Mural Activities

Through the cooperation of several members of the High School Staff it was possible for the Chief Education Officer to arrange, in September term, classes in

- (a) Elementary and Advanced Typing
- (b) Elementary and Advanced Shorthand
- (c) Elementary and O Level English
- (d) L.C.C. Arithmetic and O Level Maths.

40 students enrolled.

Major developments in afternoon and evening classes will need to await the appointment of the Evening Institute Organiser promised, under TA terms, by the Development Division.

Late in the year the Chief Education Officer accepted the invitation to be Local Representative of the Extra-Mural Department of the UWI.

School Broadcasting

It was not possible to do much in 1970 by way of School Broadcasting. Some use was made of the recorded material supplied by the Radio Unit of the UWI and there were occasional special broadcasts. At the end of the year, however, an offer was accepted for special training in school broadcasting for one of the trained primary teachers now on secondment to the High School. On his return he will be attached to the Education Department, and seconded for work in this field. He will be advised by the Specialist Staff of the local Radio Station, and by a group of class teachers.

The Public Library

The Library was established in 1943. The lending service at Headquarters (see circulation figures below) decreased in 1970. However, the Reference and Information Service was greatly utilised. Failure to meet some reference needs resulted from the fact that the Library is not a legal depository for all material—Government and non-governmental—published in the British Virgin Islands. Mobile runs were extended to Belle Vue, East End and Long Look. Because of the increased book vote (see statistics below) an allocation materialised in the circulating collection of some 630 new books specially for the Mobile Library. The demand from schools was, however, far from adequately met.

Inter Library Cooperation

The St Thomas Public Library exchange programme sent governmental, non-governmental and local publications to this library.

Bookstock

At the end of the year the bookstock was 13,520 (706 in the Mobile Library). Additions were, in the adult section of 262, Fiction and 264 Non-Fiction; in the Juvenile Library of 473 and 517 Non-Fiction, making a total of 1,516.

Book Circulation

The circulation of books in Head Quarters in the case of Adults decreased by 832 to 7,234; Juveniles by 121 to 3,864.

128 Adults and 927 Juveniles patronised the Mobile Library. There was a decrease of 34 in the case of adults but a welcome increase of 121 in the case of Juveniles.

857 Adults and 17 Juveniles took out periodicals. There was a slight decrease of 11 in adults and 17 in juveniles.

Registration

							New	Total
ADULT								
Headquarters	.	.	.	.	.	.	149	1,309
Mobile Library	.	.	.	.	.	.	22	74
JUVENILE								
Headquarters	.	.	.	.	.	.	77	1,344
Mobile Library	.	.	.	.	.	.	77	579

Finances

The Library's income was made up of \$4,000 from a Government Grant, \$10.00 for a sale of "Who's Who" and \$112.03 from fines. The majority of this was spent on books (\$2,622.70), periodicals (\$213.00) and library supplies (about \$300.00).

Education Statistics 1970**G.C.E. "O" LEVEL PASSES**

Cambridge G.C.E. 35 candidates obtained 39 subject passes
 London G.C.E. 16 subject passes

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS B.V.I. HIGH SCHOOL

Graduate trained 8 Graduate untrained 8
 Non-graduate trained 16 Non-graduate untrained 13

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Trained non-graduate 35
 Untrained with Secondary School education completed 17
 Untrained without Secondary School education completed 27.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH*General*

Further progress was made in 1970 towards the objectives of the 1968 Integrated Health Programme which, whilst by no means totally fulfilled, came closer to reality. Amongst improvements were an increase in the Medical Staff; increases in the number of trained nurses; the passing of a new Public Health Law with the initiation of regular Board of Health meetings; a new men's ward and observation ward at Peebles Hospital; the institution of a records system at the Hospital; the opening of a Central Public Health Clinic. These measures of improvement were achieved in spite of a basic financial inadequacy, the proportion of total recurrent expenditure available for health purposes remaining at less than 10%.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH STAFF

During the year 1970 the post of Chief Medical Officer changed hands again for the fourth time in less than a year, a situation which led to inconsistency in planning, administration and achievements. A new post was created for a doctor on his return from training at the University of the West Indies, bringing the total number of doctors in Government service to five.

The nursing staff was improved by the return of the Assistant Matron from the U.K. after courses in Midwifery and Neonatal Paediatrics, and three staff nurses from basic training at the University Hospital, Jamaica. It was still difficult to recruit candidates with adequate basic educational qualifications for regular nursing training but the Chief Medical Officer was able to send two trainee technicians to do General and Midwifery training respectively.

A technician left the Laboratory in September for further training in Medical Technology in New York, and a trainee technician started a course in Radiography in Jamaica. The loss of a Laboratory Technician to general administration left an increased burden to the remaining technicians and the three trainees in the Laboratory, but fortunately it was possible to recruit a qualified Pharmacist.

HOSPITAL

In spite of some improvement including a new male ward and mental observation ward, the conversion of the old men's ward to a Casualty Room and the re-flooring of the Theatre, the general state and size of the hospital left much to be desired. The island was visited by a team of hospital consultants early in the year whose report, produced in July, strongly advocated rebuilding both an in-patient hospital and,

on a separate site, an out-patient and Public Health Centre. Whilst appreciating the possibilities of such an arrangement it was felt that the financial resources available were too slender to operate the proposed service. It was decided to review the existing hospital site with the object of building a new hospital above the old whilst making use of the old building for office and storage space. Preliminary sketch plans were prepared before the end of the year, and it is hoped that 1971-1973 may see a new hospital established and bring relief from the impracticable conditions in which the staff work at present.

Vital Statistics

	1970	1969
<i>Live Births</i>		
Total Live Births	289	215
Rate per 1,000 (population)	27.4	21.5
Still Births	2	6
Neonatal Mortality (up to one year)	2	Not recorded
Maternal Mortality	—	—
Total Deaths	57	69

Immunisation

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus immunisation figures in 1970 showed a fall compared with 1969 when a mass immunisation programme in the Schools was carried out, but poliomyelitis immunisation appears for the first time.

	1970	1969
Children who completed primary immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus	993	2,074
Children who received their "Booster" doses	43	41
Vaccination against poliomyelitis	3,023	0

	1970	1969
<i>Vaccination against Small-Pox</i>		
Infants and Schoolchildren who received Small-Pox Vaccination	69	2,802
Adults Vaccinated	269	276
Yellow Fever Vaccination	8	11
Cholera Vaccination	10	0

Hospital Services

	1970	1969
No. of Patients Admitted	1,130	1,047
No. of Patients seen as Outdoor Patients	3,692	3,710
No. of Major Operations	227	334
No. of Minor Operations	126	172
No. of Confinements	232	211
No. of Deaths	28	30

There was a small increase in hospital admissions in 1970. This was made possible by the completion of a small extension providing seven extra beds in two wards. The old male ward was converted to a Casualty room. Amongst other small improvements were the re-flooring of the Operating Theatre (with Terrazzo) and the construction of a small nursery on the 1st floor. Re-painting, the building of cupboards and installation of fluorescent lights also improved the appearance and condition of the labour ward. Less happily the heavy autumn rain-fall exposed the porosity of the roof and on several occasions flooding made the situation miserable for both Staff and Patients.

A considerable quantity of new equipment including casualty trolleys, dressing trolleys, an anaesthetic machine and operating theatre instruments were purchased with money generously supplied by the Hospital Fund. A further sum of \$5,000-00 was raised by the Rotary Club and will be available for the purchase of more equipment.

Maternity Service

	1970	1969
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics	127	51
New Attendances	158	—
Total Attendance	410	—

The attendances at Ante- and Post-Natal clinics were a matter for considerable concern. It was hoped that the improvement in the service would encourage more and regular attendances. Unfortunately there is a common assumption in the Virgin Islands that the Government service which is free is less good than private care. Not until individual practitioners encourage ante-natal patients to attend clinics will the service fulfil its potential.

School Health

	1970	1969
Visits to Schools by Health Staff	38	89
Children Examined	No routine exams.	2,498
Children Dewormed	1,401	1,868
Children Treated	—	63
Children referred for X-rays	—	9
Children investigated for Sickle Cell Anaemia	—	116
Houses Visited	2	15

Apart from the traditional visit to "De-worm" the children there were no routine Medical Examinations of Schoolchildren in 1970. This was largely due to changes in Medical staff resulting from resignations and leave. But during June and July a very successful series of school visits were made as part of a programme for polio-myelitis immunisation.

Infant Welfare

	1970	1969
No. of Clinics held	215	83
Attendances	2,418	1,245
New Babies Registered	822	305
Homes Visited	143	129

The opening of a Central Welfare Clinic at the Old Agricultural Station in September, combined with more frequent visits by Public Health Nurses to clinics held in Cane Garden Bay, Belle Vue, Sea Cow Bay and Baugher's Bay, almost doubled the attendance at Infant Welfare Clinics. About half the children seen were unwell, the remainder attending either for immunisation, routine examination or advice.

Laboratory Service

In spite of the loss of two fully trained laboratory technicians to advanced courses during the year, the work of the laboratory increased both in volume and in scope. In addition to routine hospital services greater demands were made by the Public Health Department whose Immigrant and Food Handlers Clinic required a considerable increase in the number of stools examined and serology testing.

	1970	1969
Total specimens examined	10,150	9,487
These were divided into:		
Blood	6,236	5,487
Urine	1,700	1,367
Stool	1,238	1,716
Blood typing and cross matching for transfusions .	565	501
Bacteriology examinations of blood, stool, urine, swabs for culture of bacteria	379	377
Sputum examination	23	37
Cerebro-spinal fluid	9	2

X-Ray Service

A trainee technician left in October to attend a course in Radiography in Jamaica of two years' duration. It is also hoped, before his return, to send him to the United Kingdom either on a course in maintenance of electro-medical equipment or to Messrs Watson for instruction in the maintenance of our own X-ray apparatus. It is hoped that the VSO technician will return to the newly created post of Radiographer during the period of the trainee's technical training course.

	1970	1969
Total X-Rays	1,426	834

Dispensing Services

There was still no trainee in the Pharmacy nor did there seem to be any interest in this post. Fortunately the Chief Medical Officer was able to secure the services in October of a pharmacist trained in Trinidad who was appointed on a part-time basis only but who has shown highly commendable interest in the hospital pharmacy. The laboratory technicians are no longer required to take turns at dispensing and as a result of the pharmacist's hard work and long hours outside his terms of duty the pharmacy is now orderly, well documented and efficient. It has also been possible to use a number of preparations made up on the spot instead of having to import these at greater expense.

Ambulance Service

The UNICEF Ambulance was used for a number of emergencies. Technically a fee of \$5.00 is charged for its use although there are obviously numerous occasions when it is impossible to charge a fee.

Mental Health

There was still no complete after care service for mental patients returning from Antigua although with cooperation from the police and district nurses it has been possible to make some improvements in follow-up. Greater efforts were made to treat mental patients at the hospital instead of automatically referring them to Antigua. With the lack of space and small staff available this was not an easy task.

Tuberculosis

One new case of respiratory tuberculosis was found. The patient had recently arrived from the Dominican Republic and was promptly repatriated. Screening of contacts failed to show any spread of disease.

	1970	1969
Tuberculin testing	244	2,060
Positive	32	107
Negative	212	1,853

The high 1969 figures resulted from an independent survey of one particular area in Tortola.

Prison Health Service

The Medical Officer made many visits to Her Majesty's Prison in 1970, to examine and treat prisoners. There were many attendances at the hospital clinics and Casualty Department.

Policemen were seen at their barracks and also at the hospital clinics and Casualty Department.

The Medical Officer condemned the police barracks as unfit for the force because they were insanitary, overcrowded; both conditions predisposing to ill health.

It was suggested that when the new prison and police barracks were completed a small room be set aside for the Medical Officer to examine any patients; a Medical Officer should visit once a week regularly, spending a couple of hours so that anyone with medical problems could consult him. Emergencies would be seen at any time at Peebles Hospital.

Port Health Authority

Routine Health Certificates are collected from vessels entering Road Harbour. At the present time de-ratisation measures are not

enforced. In view of the work load of the two Health Inspectors it may be some time before this can become a routine part of the Health Department's activity.

Board of Health

The passing of a new Public Health Law in June 1970 gave a necessary stimulus to improvement plans for environmental sanitation. There was initially some reluctance on the part of the appointed members to serve on the Board of Health. Eventually monthly meetings were established coincidentally with the arrival of the Chief Public Health Inspector seconded to the territory from the Trinidad Government.

During the latter half of the year the Board discussed proposed regulations for control of garbage disposal; keeping of animals; control of mosquitoes; and eating establishments.

Environmental Sanitation

1. *Water Supplies:* Preparations were completed for chlorinating the main water supply at the well head in Road Town. One of the laboratory staff will be responsible for checking both the chlorine content of the main supply and its bacteriological state.

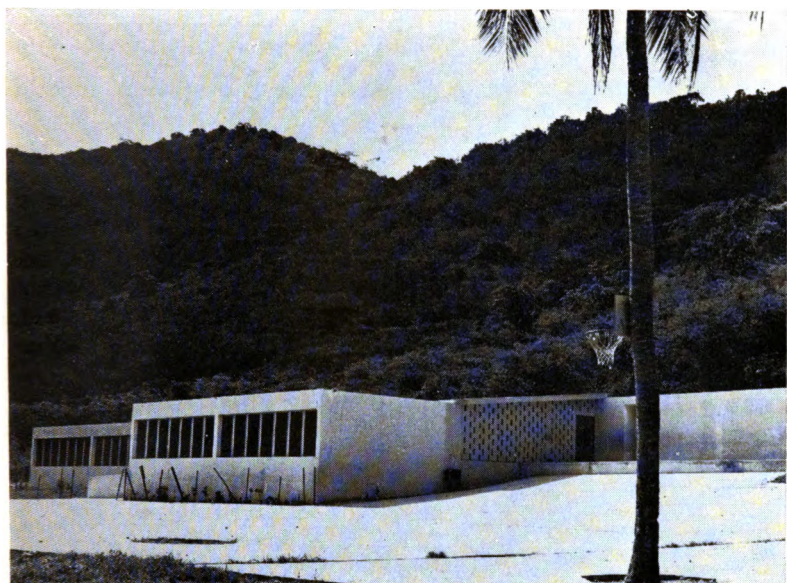
2. *Sewage Disposal:* No progress was made in 1970 with the latrine programme accepted as part of the Integrated Health Programme of 1968.

3. *Overall main water supply and sewage disposal:* A feasibility study was being carried out with the hope that extension of the main water supply to East End/Long Look, and a main sewage scheme at least for Road Town, will be a possibility for the future.

4. *Survey of water supplies and sewage disposal:* Results of a survey by the Health Department are as follows:

Total Houses	2,228
Mains water supply	278
Cistern water supply	1,598
Other forms of water supply	641
Flush toilets	1,072
Pit latrines	620
No sewage disposal	728

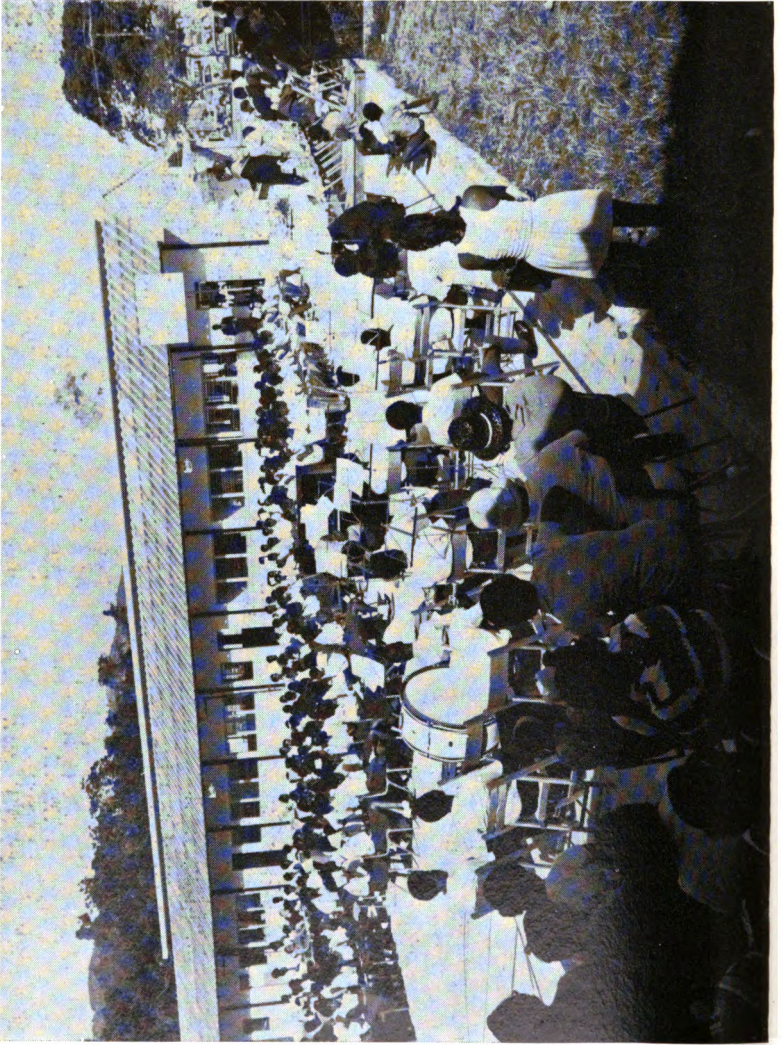
5. *Garbage Service:* This was a recurring problem for the Department during 1970. One new garbage truck was acquired in July. In view of the high cost it was decided that, in addition to the contractors employed on the North Side of Tortola and in Virgin Gorda, a contract should be given for garbage clearance from Beef Island to West End. This finally became operational in October but proved



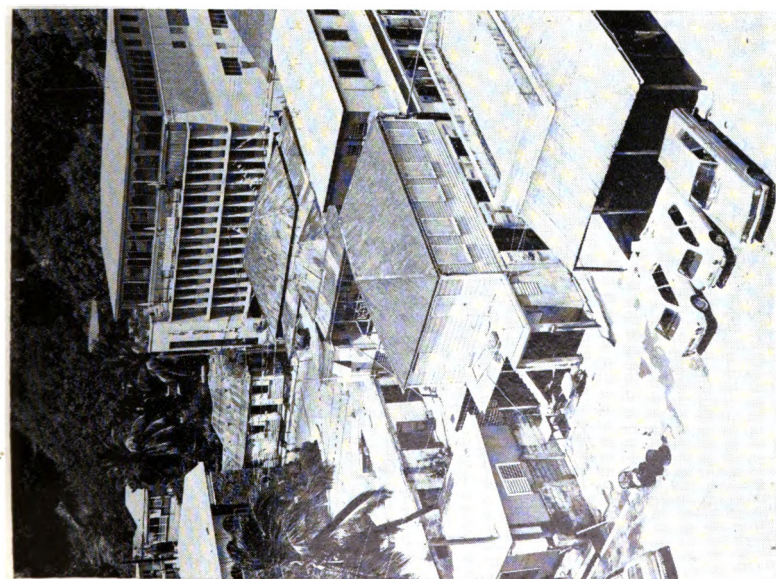
1. *New Primary School, Capoon's Bay.*
Built with financial assistance from Development Aid Funds



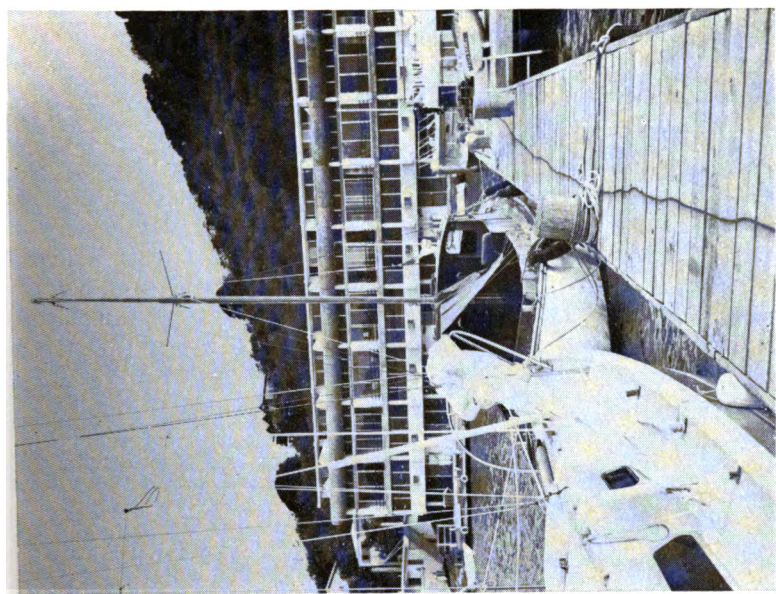
2. *New Public Health Clinic East End/Long Look District*



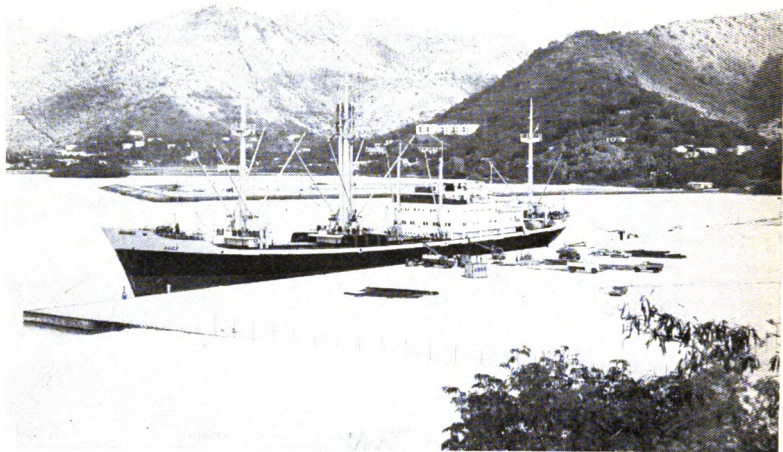
3. Speech Day B. V. I. High School



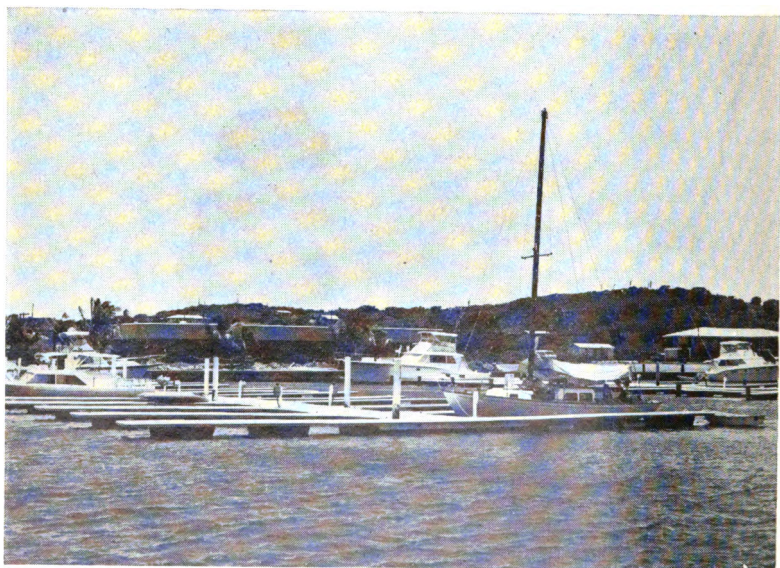
4. Commercial Section, Centre of Road Town, Tortola



5. Marina Road Harbour



6. *New Deep Water Harbour, Port Purcell, Tortola*



7. *Marina at Little Dix Bay, Virgin Gorda—A Rockresorts Yachting Development*

unsatisfactory. It was hoped that the Health Department would take over again in 1971.

Social Security

Government has under consideration a social security scheme for the Territory. This will cover almost everyone between the ages of 16 and 60 years in the case of women and 65 years in the case of men resident here and everyone employed in the Territory under a contract of service. The weekly contribution will be a fixed sum for all contributions. If the insured is employed under a contract of service, his employer will pay the contribution and deduct half of the amount from the employee's wages. All contributions will be paid into a social insurance fund, which will meet the cost of pensions and administering the fund. In order to qualify for benefits under the scheme, contributors must pay a minimum of 156 contributions.

Welfare

The Recreation Trust, set up by legislation in 1965, secures and maintains public recreation grounds and facilities for the needs of the Community. A monthly meeting is held of the members under the chairmanship of the Administrator. During 1970 the Track Athletics Association requested funds for a track and was allocated \$175-00. The Sporting Groups in East End/Long Look requested assistance in building a stand in their recreation ground and \$500-00 was allocated for this. The Primary Schools Association requested funds for sports equipment and \$3,654 was approved for this purpose. \$500-00 was also approved for a stand at Sea Cow Bay. The new recreation ground at Road Town was completed in 1970; an area at Baughers Bay was acquired by loan and a lease was obtained for an area in Brewers Bay. Under construction were courts for tennis, volley ball and netball, a 50 metre swimming pool, a Boy Scouts headquarters, a gymnasium and a parking lot for 200 cars. A Fund Raising Appeal resulted in cash donations totalling \$17,838 and the gifts of a Cricket Scoreboard and the 50 metre swimming pool. The B.V.I. Government donated \$2,000 and the real estate made available.

Chapter 8: Legislation

TWENTY-THREE Ordinances were passed in the year 1970 and during this time forty-six Subsidiary Enactments were made under the authority of Ordinances.

Of the Ordinances passed in 1970, the most notable were:

- (a) The Land Surveyor's Ordinance which introduced a system of registration of all land in the Virgin Islands together with a reformed system of land tenure in order to simplify and expedite the transfer and transmission of land. The implementation of this policy requires a cadastral survey of the whole of the Virgin Islands in order to provide the accurate records which will be required by the proposed land registry. The Land Surveyor's Ordinance, Chapter 196, was not adequate for this purpose and there was substituted for it a law suited to the new requirements.
- (b) The Land Adjudication Ordinance which made provision to sub-divide the Territory into adjudication areas and for the appointment by the Administrator of an Adjudication Officer. Aggrieved persons have an appeal to the Court of Appeal.
- (c) The Electricity Ordinance which made provision for the establishment of a board and for the exercise by the Board of functions relating to the supply of Electricity.
- (d) The Restricted Persons Ordinance which extended the provision of the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act, to regulate the holding of land in the Virgin Islands by other Commonwealth Citizens and by companies under the control of those Commonwealth Citizens.
- (e) The Emergency Powers (Hurricane, Earthquake, Fire, Flood or any natural disaster) Ordinance which made provision for the welfare and the safety of the community in case of hurricane, earthquake, fire, floods, or any natural disaster.
- (f) The Public Order Ordinance which prohibited the wearing of uniforms in connection with political objects and the maintenance by private persons of associations of military or similar character; and also provided for the preservation of public order on the occasion of public processions and meetings and in public places.
- (g) The Caribbean Development Bank Ordinance which provided for the implementation by the Government of an Agreement for the establishment and operation of the Caribbean Development Bank.
- (h) The Savings Bank (Winding Up) Ordinance which provided for the winding up of the Government Savings Bank because of the little use made of it since the influx of the commercial banks.

Pursuant to the Registration and Records Act the following deeds were registered in the years shown:

<i>Year</i>								<i>Total number of deeds registered</i>
1968	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	767
1969	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	918
1970	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,022

This is an indication of the steady rise in the number of legal documents recorded, the majority being for land transfers, leases and mortgages arising from a demand by persons from outside the territory for land for residences and for business purposes.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

SINCE 27th February, 1967, Justice is administered in the Territory by the Supreme Court of the West Indies Associated States comprising the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court.

The main body of the law in force consists of Statute Law, that is to say, legislation enacted by the former Colony of the Leeward Islands and locally enacted legislation. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes, for example the British Nationality Acts 1948 and 1964 and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1952, which are applicable throughout the Colonial Territories and extend to the Territory. Where Statute Law is silent, the Common Law of England is applicable. The Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice and two Justices of Appeal sits in the Territory at times selected by the Chief Justice. Appeals from the lower courts lie to the Court of Appeal. In certain cases there is a further appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. General sittings of the High Court in its Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction are held during March and October. Special sittings for the hearing of civil cases are also held as necessary. The Chief Justice may select the Judge assigned to any State to exercise the Jurisdiction of the court in relation to the Virgin Islands. The Puisne Judge resident in the State of St Christopher, Nevis (and Anguilla) normally sits in the Virgin Islands. In September 1970, the joint post of Magistrate/Registrar was divided. The Registrar of the High Court of Justice is also Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction presided over by the Puisne Judge sits for the trial of civil cases where the amount claimed does not exceed \$840-00 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed \$1,200-00.

POLICE

1970 was a year of comparative calm which gave the Police a welcome opportunity to consolidate and plan for the future. Progress was made towards implementing various essential capital projects with the assistance of United Kingdom Development Aid funds and the disturbing increase in crime in previous years dropped to some 5% over the 1969 figures.

However, none of these matters should be regarded with complacency. The unexpected reduction in the anticipated number of crime reports was certainly linked to the slowing-down of the Territory's economic growth rate which led to an exodus of migrant labour. Once the economy improves, it is to be expected that the crime rate will increase proportionately.

Despite the progress made in 1970 towards implementing the Police capital projects, the overall programme remained behind schedule and much still remains to be done. At the same time, the Force had serious deficiencies in manpower and training.

The Public Order Ordinance, No. 18 of 1970, prohibited the wearing of uniforms in connection with political objects and the maintaining of military associations by private persons. It also made provisions for preserving public order at public processions and meetings.

The construction of a new Police Headquarters and Fire Station in Road Town commenced at the beginning of July. The building is scheduled for completion at the end of 1971. In addition to providing improved office space, the new Headquarters will contain barrack accommodation for 50 men.

Plans were also prepared for Police Stations at East and West Tortola and it is hoped that these will be built in 1971.

By the end of 1970, Police had started along the long road towards improving its accommodation and equipment. In addition to the building plans mentioned in the preceding paragraphs some radio equipment was installed and more was planned for 1971. A new Police launch was on order for delivery in the middle of 1971.

Manpower and training continued to be problems. At the end of 1970 Police had a total establishment of 44 all-ranks, an increase of seven on the 1969 figure.

Housing

The new Police Headquarters at Road Town was started on 1st July and is due for completion in the middle of 1971. This will provide barrack accommodation for fifty men. No progress was made during the year towards building married quarters.

Finance

Comparative figures for the years 1967 to 1970 are set out below.
\$ USC

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Personal emoluments .	50,235	56,815	98,916	133,850
Other Changes .	17,626	25,707	31,431	33,593
	67,861	82,522	130,347	164,443

RECRUITING AND TRAINING

Qualifications for enlistment

Section 13 of the Police Act lays down that no person shall be appointed as a constable unless:

- (a) he has attained the age of 19 years but not reached 35 years;
- (b) his height is at least 5 feet 8 inches;
- (c) he passes a medical examination;
- (d) he is of good character;
- (e) he has a minimum education of Standard 7.

Recruiting

Eight male police constables and one woman police constable joined the Force during 1970. These recruits came from the following Islands:

British Virgin Islands	4
St Lucia	1
Dominica	1
Anguilla	1
St Kitts	1
Trinidad	1

Five of the male recruits had previous police experience in the Eastern Caribbean and had already undergone recruit training. The remaining four recruits were sent to the Regional Police Training Centre, Barbados, for training.

The policy of the Government of the British Virgin Islands is to encourage local men and women to join the Force but there has been great difficulty in finding suitable recruits.

One sergeant attended the Overseas Police Officers' General Course at the Metropolitan Police Training School, Hendon, England. He was still at the School at the end of the year.

One Police corporal attended a basic C.I.D. Course at the Police Training School, Jamaica.

One constable attended a basic Special Branch Course at the Police Training School, Jamaica.

One woman police constable attended a Social Work Course at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

CRIME AND C.I.D.

Crime

The crime figures for 1970 showed a small increase on those for 1969. Police investigated a total of 318 reports against 301 in the previous year. The number of true reports was 262 as compared with 237 in 1969.

Comparative figures for the main categories of crime over the period, 1967 to 1970, are as follows:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
<i>Offences Against Lawful Authority</i>				
True cases	6	5	10	7
Convicted cases	4	2	6	4
Acquitted cases	—	—	—	—
Withdrawn cases	—	1	1	1
Undetected cases	—	—	—	—
Pending cases	2	2	3	2
<i>Offences Against Public Morality</i>				
True cases	3	5	7	11
Convicted cases	1	—	1	—
Acquitted cases	—	—	—	2
Withdrawn cases	1	—	—	—
Undetected cases	1	1	3	6
Pending cases	—	4	3	2
<i>Offences Against the Person</i>				
True cases	26	26	49	64
Convicted cases	20	10	22	29
Acquitted cases	—	3	10	4
Withdrawn cases	2	1	9	1
Undetected cases	—	2	4	6
Pending cases	1	10	4	4
<i>Offences Against Property</i>				
True cases	65	109	169	176
Convicted cases	19	14	22	15
Acquitted cases	—	2	12	6
Withdrawn cases	2	6	10	10
Undetected cases	29	59	92	108
Pending cases	14	28	33	4
<i>Offences Against the Penal Code</i>				
True cases	—	9	2	4
Convicted cases	—	4	1	1
Acquitted cases	—	—	1	—
Withdrawn cases	—	3	—	1
Undetected cases	—	—	—	2
Pending cases	—	2	—	—

Offences Against Local Laws

Offences against local laws showed an increase of 31% on the comparable figures for 1969. Comparative figures for the years 1967 to 1970 are as follows:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
<i>True Reports</i>				
Traffic	107	152	311	408
Others	108	174	343	301
	215	326	654	709

Comparative figures for the disposal of cases over the same period are as follows:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
True cases	215	326	654	709
Convicted cases	158	185	420	372
Acquitted cases	3	8	36	105
Withdrawn cases	15	43	48	126
Undetected cases	2	10	24	14
Pending cases	37	80	126	43

Juvenile Delinquency

A total of nine juveniles (i.e. persons under the age of 16 years) were convicted during 1970 for the following offences:

Offences Against Property	1
Traffic violations	7
Minor offences	1

No probation service or approved school exists in the Territory.

Criminal Investigation Department

The 1970 crime statistics continued to show a disappointingly low detection rate, particularly in those offences where the culprits were not readily identifiable. Thus in offences involving dishonesty the conviction rate was still only 10% of the true reports:

	<i>True reports:</i>	<i>Convictions:</i>
Thefts & allied offences	100	14
Robbery & Extortion	2	—
Break-ins	47	1
False Pretences	3	—
Receiving	1	—
	153	15

The Force continued to suffer from a shortage of trained detective officers and a lack of forensic and technical aids. One cheering note in 1970 was the identification and conviction of a house-breaker by means of fingerprints. This was the first case of its kind in the Territory.

Fingerprint Bureau

The Fingerprint Bureau was completely re-organised during the year and the Force was fortunate in obtaining the services of an experienced officer for this purpose. Despite this improvement, there is a great need for a Central Clearing House for the whole of the Eastern Caribbean.

TRAFFIC

Registration and licensing of vehicles

At the end of 1970, a total of 1,973 motor vehicles were registered and licensed for use on the public roads of the Territory. This represented an increase of 43% on the 1969 figure. Comparative figures for the period 1965 to 1970 are as follows:

1965	495
1966	627
1967	795
1968	1,189
1969	1,379
1970	1,973

Road Accidents

210 road accidents occurred during 1970 in which four persons were killed and 45 injured. Comparative figures for the period, 1967 to 1970, are set out below:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Total accidents . . .	94	154	201	210
Persons killed . . .	1	1	3	4
Persons injured . . .	20	30	47	45

Traffic Offences

A total of 408 true reports of traffic violations were dealt with during 1970 compared with 311 in 1969.

382 of these reports resulted in court action from which 225 convictions were obtained.

Driving Tests

During 1970, Police remained responsible for the testing of drivers. Drivers' tests totalled 373. Comparative figures for the past four years are as follows:

				1967	1968	1969	1970
Drivers passed	.	.	.	58	132	111	206
Drivers failed	.	.	.	97	98	136	167
Total tested	.	.	.	155	230	247	373

There is a need to improve the general standard of driving in the Territory and it is hoped to send selected police officers for specialised training in vehicle and driver testing during 1971.

Examination of Vehicles

Police examine all motor vehicles for road-worthiness prior to issuing annual motor vehicle licences. This is a task which should be done by a trained motor mechanic and it is hoped that Government will arrange for this.

OTHER SPECIALISED BRANCHES*Fire Brigade*

The Chief of Police is also Chief Fire Officer for the Territory. Until the end of 1969, there was a separate establishment for a small Fire Brigade but this was amalgamated into the Police Force at the beginning of 1970 and Police assumed responsibility for dealing with fires.

A weekly training programme was conducted during 1970 for volunteer firemen and some 12 civilians took part. It was also pleasing to note the assistance given to the Police by the general public when fires did occur.

At the beginning of 1970, Police handed over responsibility for the Beef Island Airport Fire Service to the Ministry of Communications, Works and Industry.

By the end of 1970, Police had the following fire equipment at its disposal:

- 1 Land Rover Fire Tender at Road Town.
- 1 Bedford 700 gallon Fire Tender at Road Town.
- 1 Willys Jeep Fire Tender at Virgin Gorda.

In 1970, 15 fires were dealt with by Police. None of these resulted in loss of life or serious injury.

Special Branch

It was hoped to start a separate Special Branch during 1970 but the approved establishment did not permit this. It is intended to press for this in 1971.

Riot Control Unit

No separate unit is maintained but all-ranks received inservice training.

Marine Section

At the end of 1970, it was anticipated that a new 40 foot fast patrol craft would be delivered for Police use in the early part of 1971. Provision was made in the 1971 estimates for a crew.

Women Police

There was an establishment for two women police constables during the year. At the end of December, there were no vacancies.

Auxilliary Units—Local Constables

At the 31st December, 1970 local constables were distributed throughout the Territory as follows:

Road Town	4
Baughers Bay	1
East End, Tortola	2
Frenchman's Cay	1
Carrot Bay	1
Cane Garden Bay	2
Brewers Bay	3
Jost Van Dyke	2
Chalwell	1
Bellevue	1
Peter Island	1
Salt Island	1
Virgin Gorda	4
Anegada	1
	<hr/>
Total	25
	<hr/>

Communications—Telecommunications

Police acquired an HF transceiver in August, 1970 and joined the Eastern Caribbean police network. It is hoped to install VHF internal radio communications during 1971.

Transport

The 1970 establishment did not permit the formation of a separate transport section. In October, two new long wheel base Land Rovers were purchased and at the end of the year Police had the following vehicles at their disposal:

Road Town	2 long wheel base Land Rovers
	2 Honda motor cycles
East End	1 short wheel base Land Rover
West End	1 short wheel base Land Rover
Virgin Gorda	1 long wheel base Land Rover.

One short wheel base Land Rover was boarded during 1970.

OTHER POLICE DUTIES

Aliens' Registration

There is no provision in the laws of the Territory for the registration of aliens.

Revenue Collection

Police are responsible for the sale of the following licences:

Drivers' Licences
Motor vehicle licences
Driving test fees
Firearms licences
Bicycle Licences.

Revenue collected during 1970 is shown below:

Drivers' licences	\$6,488
Motor vehicle licences	26,913
Driving test fees	599
Other licences	537
	<hr/>
	\$34,537

Fines collected in respect of prosecutions brought by Police during 1970 amounted to \$11,885 of which \$6,417 was in respect of traffic offences.

Film Censorship

The Chief of Police was a member of the Censor Board which is appointed by the Administrator under the provisions of section 4 of the Cinematographs Ordinance, Cap. 211. No regulations have yet been made under this Ordinance for the powers and duties of the Board.

Control of Firearms

Permits to keep and carry firearms are issued by Police after consultation with the Administrator. At the end of 1970 the firearms registered in the Territory were as follows:

Rifles	24
Shotguns	45
Handguns	13
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

The comparative figure for 1969 was 82.

PRISONS

General

The British Virgin Islands Prison Service is established under the Prisons Ordinance, Cap. 166, which remained without amendment during 1970. The Service comes within the portfolio of the Chief Minister of Government.

Prison accommodation remained unaltered during the year.

A total of 72 persons passed through prison hands during the year, 35 of whom were convicted prisoners.

Gross Prison Population 1967-1970

<i>Year</i>					<i>Total Prison Population</i>	<i>Total Convicted Prisoners</i>
1967	.	.	.	.	22	13
1968	.	.	.	.	31	11
1969	.	.	.	.	88	17
1970	.	.	.	.	72	35

The steady increase over the years emphasises the need for larger prison accommodation.

Administration and Staff

During 1970, there was no change in the basic administrative structure of the Service which remained under the command of the Chief of Police who is also designated as Keeper of the Prison. The establishment for Prison staff remained unaltered at one Prison Corporal and one Prison Warder.

Prison Population, 1970 (Types of Prisoners)

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total Female</i>
<i>Prison State at 1st January, 1970</i>				
Convicted	8	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	—	—	—	—
In default	—	—	8	—
<i>Prison Admissions During 1970</i>				
Convicted	27	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	34	2	—	—
In default	1	—	62	2
Total Prison Population, 1970	.	.	70	2
<i>Prison Discharges During 1970</i>				
Convicted	28	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	34	2	—	—
In default	1	—	—	—
			63	2

Prison Population, 1970 (Types of Prisoners)—contd.

	Male	Female	Male	Total Female
<i>Prison State at 31st December, 1970</i>				
Convicted	7	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	—	—	—	—
In default	—	—	—	—
			7	—

Prison Population, 1970 (Age Groups of Convicted Prisoners Received)

	Male	Female
Under 16 years	—	—
16 years & under 21 years	5	—
21 years & under 25 years	11	—
25 years & under 59 years	6	—
Over 50 years	5	—
Total	27	—

Prison Population, 1970 (Sentence of Convicted Prisoners Received)

	Male	Female
Under 1 month	3	—
1 month & under 3 months	11	—
3 months & under 6 months	4	—
6 months & under 12 months	4	—
12 months & under 18 months	1	—
18 months & over	3	—
Life imprisonment	1	—
Total	27	—

Prison Population, 1970 (Offenders of Convicted Prisoners Received)

	Male	Female
Against the person	10	—
Against property	10	—
Non-payment of fines	1	—
Others	6	—
Total	27	—

Juvenile Offenders

No juvenile offenders were sentenced to imprisonment during 1970. The existing prison facilities are inadequate for the detention of

juveniles as the accommodation does not permit isolation of one class of prisoner from another.

Female Prisoners

Two adult females were remanded in custody during the year. In the absence of proper accommodation and female warders, this proved to be a costly and complicated exercise.

Remand Prisoners

A total of 36 persons were remanded in custody in the Prison during the year. Efforts were made to segregate these persons from the convicted prisoners but the limited space and communal courtyard made this virtually impossible.

Religion

No Prison Chaplain has been appointed but ministers of all denominations visit the prison regularly and services are held every Sunday.

Health and Diet

No serious health problems were encountered during the year. On the instructions of the Visiting Committee, the Government Medical Officer examined the water supply and found it was fit for human consumption.

Diet is in accordance with the provisions of the Prison Ordinance and is adequate and generally received without complaint. Efforts were made to start a system of bulk-buying foodstuffs to avoid excessive costs but the small prison population and the shortage of staff to enforce proper control prevented this from being an economical exercise. The situation is being kept under review and may be instituted if the prison population justifies it.

Mental Patients

No mental patients are normally detained as they are usually sent to Antigua for treatment. On three occasions during 1970, mental patients were detained in prison overnight before being sent on to Antigua.

Labour

Prisoners were employed on public work throughout the year. This work included cleaning of public offices and erection of road signs.

Extra-Mural Labour

No extra-mural sentences were imposed during the year.

Visits

His Honour the Administrator inspected the Prison in September, 1970. The Visiting Committee to the Prison made regular visits throughout the year.

Discipline

The general conduct of the prisoners was good apart from minor disciplinary offences.

Escapes

No prisoners escaped from prison custody during the year.

Executions

No person was executed in the Prison during 1970. One prisoner was sentenced to death but this was subsequently commuted to life imprisonment.

Remission

Regulation 160 of the Prison Rules provides for remission of up to one third of the prisoner's sentence for good behaviour. All Prisoners discharged in 1970 earned full remission.

Training of Prisoners

There is no provision for proper training of prisoners in trades that will serve them after their release. Carpentry tools were acquired during 1970 and prisoners were encouraged to use these. This proved to be very popular.

After-Care

There is no organisation to assist prisoners in finding work after their discharge.

Probation

There is no Probation Service in the Territory.

Finance

The total expenditure on the Prison Service during 1970 amounted to \$12,951.97, an increase of \$2,848.21 on 1969.

Prison Service Expenditure, 1966-1970

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Personal emoluments and temporary assistance .	2,878.95	2,148.00	3,926.93	7,141.00	8,045.49
Provisions and necessities .	1,212.67	2,314.27	3,144.96	2,837.57	3,725.30
Clothing and equipment .	104.70	202.19	398.14	907.48	907.48
Prison Warders' Uniforms .	32.50	46.90	36.00	7.75	94.60
Grants to discharged prisoners .	24.00	21.84	—	7.50	44.00
Sanitation .	56.32	51.00	4.00	—	98.75
Medical & dental .	88.70	13.00	55.00	—	44.35
	4,397.84	4,797.20	7,565.03	10,109.76	12,957.97

In 1970 the British Government agreed to pay for the cost of all Police training outside the Territory and this very generous gesture has taken a very heavy financial burden from the local Government. In addition to the six months' initial training course for recruits in Barbados, there are a variety of specialist courses in the Caribbean and in the United Kingdom. However, the most pressing need continued to be for General Duty refresher courses in the NCO/Constable cadres.

ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force was established on the 26th February, 1967 as a result of constitutional changes in the Leeward Islands. Prior to that time Police in the Virgin Islands were part of the Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Police Force which in turn originated from the old Leeward Islands Police Force.

The 1952 Police Act provides for the establishment of the Force and lays down the powers and duties of Police. The latter are described as "the prevention and detection of crime and the repression of internal disturbance". In addition to these primary duties, Police were responsible for the following services during 1970:

The Fire Brigade

The Immigration Service (up until the 15th September)

The examination, registration and licensing of motor vehicles

The licensing of firearms.

In order to carry out all these duties, the Force had the following organisation at the end of 1970:

Police Headquarters, Road Town,

Police and Fire Station, Road Town,
Police Station, Carrott Bay, West Tortola,
Police Station, Long Swamp, East Tortola,
Police Station, Valley, Virgin Gorda.

In addition, small Criminal Investigation and Traffic Departments were maintained at Police Headquarters.

Establishment and Strength (1967-1970)

	31.12.67		31.12.68		31.12.69		31.12.70	
	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.
Police:								
Chief of Police .	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	1
A/Supt. of Police .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Insp. of Police .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sergeants .	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Corporals .	3	3	5	5	5	6	8	8
M/Consts. .	11	10	17	16	19	17	23	23
W/Consts. .	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Totals .	20	19	28	27	31	27	38	38
Fire Brigade:								
Sergeants .	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Corporals .	1	—	2	1	2	1	1	2
M/Consts. .	1	2	4	2	4	4	4	2
Totals .	2	2	6	3	6	6	6	4
Grand Totals: .	22	21	34	30	37	33	44	42

Distribution of Establishment, 1970

	Chief	A/Supt	Insp	Sgts	Cpls	Male Cons	Women Cons	Total
Police:								
Headquarters .	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
C.I.D. .	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Traffic .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Road Town .	—	—	1	1	4	17	2	25
West End .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
East End .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Virgin Gorda .	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Totals .	1	1	1	2	8	23	2	38
Fire Brigade:								
Road Town .	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Virgin Gorda .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Totals .	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	6
Grand Totals .	1	1	1	3	9	27	2	44

Note:

Immigration was taken out of Police control on the 15th September, 1970.

Accordingly, establishment and strength figures for that Department have been omitted from this report.

Health

No serious health problems were encountered during the year and there was a very welcome drop in the number of man-days lost through ill-health. The loss amounted to 84 man-days as opposed to 422 in 1969.

Discipline

Disciplinary charges in 1970 totalled 76. All were for minor infringements of Police Regulations. A total of \$229.40 in fines was collected.

Racial Composition of the Force

At the 31st December, 1970, the Force was composed of natives of the following places:

Anguilla	1
Antigua	6
Barbados	1
British Virgin Islands	6
Dominica	8
Grenada	8
Montserrat	1
Nevis	2
St Kitts	2
St Lucia	1
St Vincent	3
Trinidad	2
United Kingdom	1
Total	42 all ranks

Length of Service

Length of service at the 31st December, 1970 was as follows:

	<i>1-2 years</i>	<i>3-5 years</i>	<i>6-10 years</i>	<i>11-15 years</i>	<i>16-20 years</i>	<i>21 years & over</i>	<i>total</i>
Officers	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Inspectors	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Sergeants	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Corporals	2	2	5	1	—	—	10
Constables	16	10	1	—	—	—	27
Totals	18	12	6	4	1	1	42

Chapter 10: Public Utilities

ELECTRICITY REPORT FOR 1970

General

The extension of the Power Station to provide for one additional 1,183 kW set immediately and for provision for a further set when required later in the decade together with accommodation for an extensive High Tension distribution board was completed in July.

A contract was placed in June for a new 1,183 kW Diesel alternator which is now under manufacture in the U.K. and should be operational by June 1971.

The new Electricity Ordinance draft in 1969 was passed by the Legislative Council and received assent on 16th July, 1970. Electricity Rules complementary to and in amplification of this Ordinance were approved by Executive Council but at the close of the year had not been gazetted.

The new Electricity Ordinance as well as laying down legislation covering all aspects of Generation, Distribution, Sale and use of Electricity in the Territory both for Government and private owned installations also makes provision for an Electricity Board. This Board under the Chairmanship of the Chief Electrical Engineer had not been appointed by the close of the year.

Due to the lateness in the year in obtaining approval to the final stages of the new Legislation it was not possible to commence its implementation in the current year.

Little interest by private enterprise in the manufacture of ice has been noted in spite of Government's intention to close the Ice and Cold Storage Plant at the end of 1971.

The report by the firm of consulting Accountants on the Department's Tariffs structure commissioned last year was received and this indicated that on the present anticipated growth and in view of the estimated total capital cost of the undertaking (\$3,250,000) it would not be possible to make any worthwhile changes in the existing tariff till about 1975-1976.

Units Generated

Total units generated during the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970 were as follows:

(The percentage increase over the previous years is indicated in brackets below the units generated for each year.)

1967	1968	1969	1970
kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh
1,511,561	2,082,581 (33%)	4,202,825 (103%)	6,046,643 (44%)

Percentage increase in units generated in 1970 over 1969 indicates a slight levelling out in demand. The following table shows the maximum demand during the year:

Maximum Demand

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
975	1,000	1,050	1,040	1,000	1,025	1,140	1,105	1,100	1,120	1,175	1,320

Load Factor

The average load factor for the year 1970 was 61%.

Consumers Connected

The total number of consumers connected to the department's system at 31st December was 1,829. The corresponding figure for 1969 was 1,499, for 1968-847 and for 1967-667 this gives an increase in consumer population of 330 for the year 1970 or an increase of 22% over 1969. This figure also bears out the assumption that saturation point is being reached with the indigenous population. It has been noted that the population of Tortola was assessed at the census in April 1970 as 8,939.

Units Sold

The following table gives the units sold during the past four years with percentage increase in brackets.

1967	1968	1969	1970
kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh
1,294,707	1,777,882 (37%)	3,603,624 (103%)	5,091,096 (41%)

Average Revenue per unit sold

The following table gives the trend of the average revenue per unit sold:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
7-50	7-57	7-56	7-54	7-51	7-41	7-54	7-50	7-56	7-52	7-61	7-59

This gives an overall monthly average for the year of 7-55%.

Units used per consumer

Average monthly consumption per consumer rose from 248 kWh to a maximum of 281 kWh and the overall monthly average for the year 1970 works out at 256 kWh.

Generation

Operation. The installed capacity of generating plant operated by the Department now stands at 3,321 kW which is a decrease of 180 over 1969 resulting from the withdrawal from service of three small 60 kW sets.

Construction. The manufacture of a further generating set of 1,183 kW is well in hand and this set should be commissioned in June 1971. The extension of the Power Station to accommodate these sets and a new 18 panel 13.2 kW switchboard was completed in June. At the same time building space and foundations were provided for a fourth 1,183 kW set when the need arises. The delay in installing the additional set planned for mid December till June 1971 is a result of difficulties over financing the agreed overall plan of expansion.

The Electricity load in the Peebles Hospital had increased to such an extent that the small 20 kW standby set was not adequate for use in an emergency. Opportunity was taken to utilize one of the surplus 60 kW sets taken out of service in the Power Station. A new plant house was constructed at the back of the Hospital and the 60 kW set installed in August. The department is maintaining this set and will operate it in an emergency.

Operational Communication. The department has purchased through Cable & Wireless a main radio transmitter situated at Chalwell with master controls by land line in the office at Road Town and at the Power Station and six Radio Telephones installed on the department's vehicles as well as four Bantam portable sets for use by engineers. Cable & Wireless maintain the system for the department for a yearly charge. The system has proved of considerable value in permitting engineers to keep in touch with staff in the field particularly during the periods of storm and flooding experienced in the last half of the year. The system was of particular advantage during the submarine cable laying operation. The staff have proved to be very apt in the use of the network and with little or no training in its operation quickly appreciated its advantages and make ready use of it in requesting instructions and reporting the extent of damage being investigated.

Stores. The volume of spare parts now required to be held for maintenance purposes in the Power Station, and the increasing amount of materials which also have to be held for use at short notice for line construction and maintenance, are such that the existing system of ordering on Crown Agents Indents individually, against specific work, has proved cumbersome and uneconomical due to the small quantity of material required against each order and the

extended delivery dates. This has restricted the efficient operation of the department to such an extent that it has been necessary to recommend that the department hold and operate an unallocated stores system up to the value of \$140,000 in 1971.

Ice Plant. There has been some small drop in the sale of ice throughout the year. But with the increase in charges which came into operation on the 14th February there has been an increase in revenue. Output dropped from 362 tons in 1969 to 288 tons in 1970.

In view of the Government's decision to cease the manufacture of ice on 31st December, 1971, expenditure on replacement parts has been kept to a minimum. The plant will require considerable nursing to keep it operational till the end of 1971.

Transmission. 13,200 volts system.

By the end of the year the main High Tension System on Tortola with the exception of Wickham's Cay had been completed. During the year a further 14½ miles of High Tension 3 phase and single phase overhead lines had been added to the system and a further 38 single and three phase transformers to a total capacity of 810 kW had been installed and energised.

The overhead catenary cable on Jones Hill has been replaced by one branch of a new twin feeder.

The total length of line now in commission is 41 miles feeding 92 single and three phase transformers to a total capacity of 2,845 kW.

In July four submarine cable crossings with terminal switchgear were laid as follows:

- (a) Sprat Point, Beef Island to Valley Trunk Bay, Virgin Gorda 10,966 yards.
- (b) Casey Bay, Virgin Gorda to Low Bay, Great Camanoe 12,428 yards.
- (c) Potato Bay, Great Camanoe to East End Bay, Little Camanoe 950 yards.
- (d) South Bay, Little Camanoe to Lewis Bay, Tortola 2,616 yards in preparation for the provision of supply to Virgin Gorda and the Camanoes from the Tortola network.

In October heavy thunder-storms and flooding caused extensive damage to the system as a result of which the rebuilding and diversion of a number of lines was necessary. This repair work seriously strained the resources of the department's labour force and unavoidably delayed some new construction. The department's efforts were up to the close of the year further handicapped by the deterioration which had taken place in the condition of the roads which wreaked havoc with the transport.

Transmission. 3,300 volts system.

Steady progress was made in the transfer of load from the 3,300 volts network to the 13.2 kW systems and at the end of the year only 5 transformers with a total capacity of 325 kW remained to be transferred. Work on this transfer should be completed in April, 1971.

Distribution. The distribution system at 120/208 volts was extended by $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles notably in the following areas:

Belmont, Doty, Ballast Bay, Greenbanks, Great Mountain, Brewers Bay, Little Bay, Long Trench, Manchester, Belle Vue, Hope Estate, Little Dicks and Pleasant Valley.

The number of consumers increased from 1,499 to 1,829 in 1970. This increase of 330 included the Malone's Block Plant at Pockwood Pond and increased bulk supply to the Long Bay Hotel.

Street Lighting. At the close of the year there were ninety-seven 150 watt fittings installed on the main road between Fort Burt Hotel and Treasure Isle Hotel; these are all new fittings installed in the latter half of the year. Eighty-two 100 watt fittings are installed in side-roads and at the end of the year work to improve the quality of these fittings was in hand.

Two 80 foot high masts with $4 \times 1,000$ watt lamps on each were installed in the Customs and Dock area in September. These have replaced fifteen 125 watt fittings mounted on aluminium stands which had become dangerous and which were repeatedly being damaged by traffic and cargo handling gear. The new lamps provided an improved standard of illumination for the area.

Long Term Policy

It is anticipated that by mid June, 1971 the Electricity Development Scheme commenced in 1967 will have been carried out as planned.

Water

There are no rivers in the Territory. The only piped water is in the capital, Road Town. The remainder of the population of Tortola and the other islands depend upon shallow wells and/or individual roof catchments and storage tanks.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

General

The Department had an eventful year during 1970. Following a period of increased economic activity during years 1968 and 1969 the

Department was called on to assist in improving the infrastructure of the territory. This included the improvement of roads; the construction of new schools and the provision of a more reliable water supply to the people of Road Town and the country districts. Over 2 million dollars were spent on Capital Works alone during the year in addition to normal recurrent maintenance.

The Wickham's Cay roads, surface water drains and sewerage system were taken over by the Government and many premises in Road Town were satisfactorily connected to the sewerage system. During the latter part of the year a Feasibility Study for providing sewerage systems for Road Town and East End/Long Look was started.

Roads

During the year Development Aid to the extent of \$644,000-00 was received for Roadworks; of this sum \$131,000-00 was primarily for the repair of damage resulting from the October floods. Grants totalling \$106,000-00 were received for the purchase of much needed equipment to mechanise maintenance operations carried out by the Department. A total length of 3.65 miles of road in Tortola and 1½ miles of road in Virgin Gorda were surfaced. Nearly every other road had extensive earthworks carried out to them involving clearing, widening, building up and grading. A length of over 2½ miles of track was bulldozed between Great Harbour and East End Harbour in Jos Van Dyke.

Airfields

The sum of \$45,000-00 was made available by the Development Division for resurfacing the Beef Island Airfield, taxiway and hard-standing. Arrangements were completed to carry out this work in January, 1971.

Building up and regrading the Virgin Gorda airfield was carried out once by the Public Works Department using Public Works Department equipment and on a second occasion by a private contractor.

Sweeping and filling potholes on Anegada airstrip was carried out using manual labour.

Buildings

At the beginning of 1970, 8 new buildings or extensions were under construction. These were completed during the year. In addition work was commenced on another 13 buildings of which 10 were completed in 1970. Major renovation of several Government Offices

was completed during the year and improvements to Primary Schools were in progress. Plans were under preparation for 3 other buildings including the Beef Island Airport Terminal Building.

Water Supplies

The Road Town Water Supply scheme was extended to Treasure Isle Hotel and into the Huntums Ghut housing area. Out of 8 deep wells drilled in Tortola only 4 appeared to yield any appreciable quantity of water. Because of the danger of saline intrusion into the fresh water layers underground, no further work was carried out in developing the wells. It is expected that shallow wells will be the safest source of water in the Territory. The 125,000 gallon reservoir in Long Bush was completed during the year and further loan funds were requested to complete extension of the Road Town Water Supply to Wickham's Cay and Purcell. Six rainwater cisterns were under construction, of which 4 were completed during the year.

Deep Water Berth

Piling and dredging of the basin and filling of the reclamation were in progress.

Wickham's Cay

During the year Wickham's Cay road sewers and storm-drain were taken over by the Government. However, no funds were available to carry out any maintenance work on the drains or outfall which were silting rapidly. Many premises in Road Town were connected satisfactorily to the Wickham's Cay Sewer System but a large number of premises were below the sewer level and continued to discharge raw sewage into the storm drain between the Cay and Road Town.

Chapter 11: Communications

THERE are about forty miles of motor roads in the Territory. The newly reconstructed Beef Island Airfield was opened in April 1969. The new extended runway is 3,200 feet long and 90 feet wide, with 200-foot over-runs at each end. The airport is now capable of receiving Avro 748 50-seat turbo-jet aircraft. Plans were announced for a new terminal building and for further extension of the runway to 5,000 feet. Anegada airfield was opened in July, 1969. The runway is approximately 2,000 feet long and capable of accommodating air-

craft of 12,500 pounds weight. There is also an airstrip at Virgin Gorda.

Scheduled and/or charter services are operated by Leeward Island Air Transport, Prinair, All-Island Air, White Sands Aviation, Caribbean Air Services, Anguilla Airways, Dorado Wings and Trade Winds. Aircraft movements in 1970 totalled 12,767. Construction of a new deep-water harbour in Tortola, to provide deep-water docking for ocean-going ships, was in progress in 1970. In 1969, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co. began a new shipping service to the Territory from London and Amsterdam. The Territory is also served by the Atlantic lines from New York, and by the Florida Line from Miami (United States). There is also a hydrofoil service to Puerto Rico and St Thomas (United States Virgin Islands). Direct Booker Line freight shipping service has been opened from Liverpool to Tortola.

Cable and Wireless Ltd. continues to operate the Territory's telephone and telegraph communications. There are approximately 800 telephone lines in use throughout the Territory and there is also a telex service.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THE *Island Sun*, published weekly, is the only local newspaper. There is a commercial radio station (ZBVI) located at Baughers Bay, Tortola, which has been in operation since 1964. The station operates at 780 kilocycles with 10,000 watts and covers most of the Eastern Caribbean. In January 1969, the British Virgin Island Government issued a licence to Dukane, West Indies Ltd. to install and operate a television station. This station was not yet in operation in 1970.

There is no local production or distribution of films. A commercial cinema, the Carib Cinema in Road Town, shows feature films. British news-reels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information and other sources are shown by the Community Development Centre.

The Government issues News Releases informing the press, radio and the public of all Government news of general interest. Fact Sheets and other hand-outs are also available to persons desiring information about the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Virgin Islands of St Thomas and St Croix, contain over forty British Islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St Kitts, and straddle latitude $18^{\circ}25'N$ and longitude $64^{\circ}30'W$. They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution, the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles, are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tabago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit, lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass, so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide, it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands, except Anegada, rise precipitously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments, into which diorites and

pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metaliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams, with frequent outcrops of bare rock. Anegada has very little soil; limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a subtropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 95°F. in the shade and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes sometimes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only zerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places, the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes, mainly *Croton rigidus*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola. Being of scientific interest, this remnant of zerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of

Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes, mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 20% of the population live in Road Town, the capital of the territory, and its environs. A slightly lower percentage live in East End/Long Look, the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out-islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only a few families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Two of these, Guana Island and Marina Cay, are tourist resorts.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the territory. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported. The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a livestock industry.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income, went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. However, the demand for labour in the United States Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist

industry, seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the territory can never become economically viable with small-scale agricultural and livestock raising as a base and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' natural features for tourism. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various islands to each other and the surrounding sea provide a setting for tourists. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a centre for boating and fishing enthusiasts. The economic outlook, therefore, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November, 1493, by Christopher Columbus who named them *Las Virgenes* in honour of St Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595, when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St Kitts. Eight years later, several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile, pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was

successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lbs. (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, the Sir Francis Drake Channel became a rendezvous for British ships homeward bound and the presence of numerous merchant ships brought a good deal of trade to Tortola. With the end of these wars there commenced a period of decline and by the time of the abolition of slavery, 1st August, 1838, the trade of the islands was languishing. The landed proprietors left and the islands continued to decline economically until by 1900 the whole export and import trade was valued at only £6,199.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of 6 non-elected members—three ex-officio and three nominated—was substituted. In 1872, the Federation of the Leeward Islands was created and the separate colonies, including the British Virgin Islands, became Presidencies. In 1889, the official designation of President was, however, changed to Commissioner. In 1902, the Legislative Council was abolished. A Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, was revived in 1950. On the 1st July, 1956, the Leeward Islands Colony was defederated and the Presidency of the Virgin Islands became a colony. The Colony of the Virgin Islands was then administered under the Governor of the Leeward Islands by an Administrator. On 31st December, 1956, the office of Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished and the Administrator became Her Majesty's Representative in the colony, directly responsible to the Colonial Office in London.

Her Majesty the Queen visited the British Virgin Islands on the 23rd February, 1966. Since then the 23rd February has been a public holiday to commemorate the Queen's visit. In October of 1966, a Constitutional Conference was held in London with a view to drawing up a new constitution for the Territory, based on the report of a constitutional commissioner (Miss Mary Proudfoot).

In April of 1967, a semi-ministerial form of government came into effect, under the terms of the new Constitution. The Administrator retained his responsibilities for defence and internal security, external affairs, the administration of the courts and the public service, but was required to seek the advice of Executive Council on nearly all matters.

Following are some of the important dates in the Territory's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil Government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.
- 1774 Legislature met for the first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.
- 1838 Abolition of slavery.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution; Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1872 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature reconstituted.
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands colony and establishment of colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December, 1959, and the Administrator became the Queen's Representative.
- 1966 Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1967 Revised Constitution introduced from 30th March, 1967, bringing ministerial government into effect.

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

The Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into force of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I. No. 833), made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2. chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands

Colony (Antigua, St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) into separate colonies.

A new constitution was brought into effect by the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order 1967. The new constitution came into effect in April 1967 and provides for the first time for a ministerial system. The Administrator remains responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of the courts and finance, and continues to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council is comprised of the Administrator as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Administrator as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Justice was formerly administered in the territory by the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court, and a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court visited the islands twice a year. With the replacement of the Supreme Court by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, arrangements have been made for this Court to serve the Virgin Islands.

A General Election was held on 14th April, 1967, and the United Party secured four seats, the Democratic Party two seats and the People's Own Party one seat. The Government was constituted as follows:

Administrator

J. S. Thomson, C.M.G.,
M.B.E.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator (Chairman)

Attorney General (ex-officio)

Financial Secretary (ex-officio)

Chief Minister

*Minister for Natural Resources
and Public Health*

*Minister for Communications,
Works and Industry*

Hon. N. Jacobs

Hon. C. B. Romney, M.A.

Hon. H. L. Stoutt

Hon. I. Dawson

Hon T. B. Lettsome

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Speaker:

Hon H. O. Creque, O.B.E.

*Attorney General (ex-officio)**Financial Secretary (ex-officio)**Nominated Member**Elected Members:*

Hon. J. R. O'Neal, O.B.E.

Hon. H. L. Stoutt;

Hon. I. Dawson;

Hon. T. B. Lettsome

Dr the Hon. Q. W. Osborne

Hon. I. G. Fonseca

Hon. H. R. O'Neal

Hon. E. L. Smith

Local Government

There was no local government organisation in the Territory and little or no interest was shown in the subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial weights and measures are used in the Territory. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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 EGGLESTON, GEORGE T. *Virgin Islands*, Princeton, D. Van Nostrand, 1959.
 HOLDRIGE, DESMOND, *Escape to the Tropics*, Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1937.
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PART I

General Review 1971

ADMINISTRATION

THE affairs of the Territory were administered by Mr D. G. Cudmore, O.B.E., who assumed office of Administrator in March 1971 on the completion of the tour of duty of Mr J. S. Thomson, C.M.G., M.B.E. By an amendment of the Constitution on the 4th August, the post of Administrator was upgraded to the status of Governor and consequently on the following day Mr D. G. Cudmore, O.B.E. was sworn in as Governor of the British Virgin Islands.

POLITICAL

The Territory operates under a Ministerial System of Government which was introduced in 1967. The Governor is responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, the Administration of the Courts and Finance, and has reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities. On other matters he is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected Members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

General Elections were held on 2nd June, 1971, and as a result the B.V.I. Democratic Party secured three seats, the Virgin Islands Party two seats, and the B.V.I. United Party one seat. One Independent candidate also gained a seat. The Democratic Party form the present government under the leadership of the Hon. W. Wheatley, Chief Minister, with the Hon. H. L. Stoutt, former Chief Minister, assuming the role of Leader of the Opposition.

INTER VIRGIN ISLANDS CONFERENCE

Relations between the British and U.S. Virgin Islands continued to be cordial. Two meetings were held and visits exchanged between the Governors and other senior officials for discussion on matters of mutual interest. There are suggestions for setting up at an unofficial level an eight-man committee consisting of four representatives from either group to examine possible areas of cooperation and to put forward proposals for the establishment of a joint deliberative body to deal with these matters as well as to advise on its terms of reference.

THE ECONOMY

The year 1971 saw a further slowing down of economic activity following the recession of 1970. Construction activity was considerably reduced from the high levels of 1968 and 1969, although the Territory's second largest hotel was completed on Peter Island in December. Plans were also made for hotel development on Virgin Gorda and tourist/residential development on Beef Island. Work was completed on six new buildings for Government primary schools and some improvements and extensions to the B.V.I. High School. Two new medical clinics were opened and substantial road repairs and improvements were undertaken. The electricity supply system was extended to the island of Camanoes and most locations on Virgin Gorda.

The Government's local revenue showed a slight decline from \$3.14 million to \$3.05 million, reflecting the recession in the economy following the average annual increase in revenue of 37% over the preceding three years. Recurrent expenditure increased from \$3.45 million to \$4.02 million, mostly for the completion of the electricity extension scheme and the public debt attributable to this scheme. The deficit was again met by Grant-in-Aid from the U.K. Government. Capital expenditure was reduced by \$1 million to \$2.3 million, following the high level attained in 1970.

The recession in economic activity was further evidenced by the stabilisation of the level of imports and the net emigration of expatriate workers. The total value of bank loans fell by 6.5% while time deposits fell by 9%. A number of construction companies left the island and in March 1971 it was estimated that the construction labour force had dropped by as much as one-half from the April 1970 level. The cost of living continued to rise as in the preceding years. It is estimated that prices increased by a figure in the region of 6½% compared with the annual average of 4½% over the preceding

three years, although the level of house rents was reduced during 1971 and this would have lowered the increase to rent-payers.

By the end of the year there was some renewal of confidence being felt and it was anticipated that with the Wickhams Cay Report and development at Beef Island, Virgin Gorda and at Peter Island some economic progress could be made in 1972.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Until recently it was generally believed by the inhabitants that they could best help their native land by leaving it. People acted on that belief; a whole way of life developed around this urge to migrate, and this has resulted in the very slow population growth within the past few years. The effect of this migration is that a fair proportion of the money in circulation is generated by remittances from relatives of local residents living abroad, who are concerned above all else about maintaining their identity as Virgin Islanders. The events of 1971 and former years have not brought any fundamental changes in attitudes or values. Physically the islands have changed; most of the amenities one associates with life in a modern community are now available, and to that extent the standard of life has improved. A subsistence on agriculture has changed to subsistence on tourism and for the average Virgin Islander his means of earning a living has changed but not the nature of his economic role. A large proportion of British Virgin Islanders are landowners and a family that does not own 2 acres of land is rare. To them the land has become more than the basic means of production; it is a symbol of their independence and the key to that independence.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The number of pensionable and contract Civil Servants increased from 228 in 1970 to 342 in 1971. Many British Virgin Islanders joined the Civil Service for the first time and many ex-Civil Servants returned to employment in the Public Service. The role on the establishment is in the range of 342 (including contract Civil Servants).

HONOURS

On the occasion of Her Majesty's official birthday the following awards have been made:

To be a Knight Bachelor: Mr James Olva Georges, O.B.E.

To be a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Lawrence Spedman Rockefeller.

To be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Alford Everett Penn, B.E.M.

Mr Georges has been the first British Virgin Islander to have been so honoured by Her Majesty the Queen.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

A CENSUS was taken in 1970, and the final figures are distributed as follows:

Tortola	8,939
Virgin Gorda	1,025
Anegada	290
Jost Van Dyke	124
Other Islands	106
	<hr/>
	10,484
	<hr/>

A breakdown of the figure for Tortola is as follows:

Road Town	2,183
East End/Long Look	1,847
The rest	4,909
	<hr/>
	8,939
	<hr/>

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisations

THE Non-Belongers (Restriction as to Employment or Occupation) Ordinance (No. 5 of 1969) remains the operative law under which work permits are issued to expatriates resident in the Territory since 1st January, 1962. A total of 2,090 work permits to engage in employment were issued or renewed and 101 work permits were issued to engage in business in the Territory. The following basic requirements for work permits continue in effect:

- (1) The unavailability of British Virgin Islanders for the particular job required;
- (2) Satisfactory police and health certificates;

- (3) Immigration Bonds certifying that funds are available for repatriation purposes, if it becomes necessary.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance (No. 1 of 1953) provides for a proportion of hotel employees to be expatriates, since certain posts which require skills or technical ability are not available locally. There is legislation, the Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, which sets out the procedure for wage fixing in the Territory. Section 2 of the Act (No. 21 of 1937) states *inter alia*:

- (1) Whenever the Governor deems it expedient that steps should be taken to regulate the wages paid in any occupation in the Colony he may, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint an Advisory Committee to investigate the conditions of employment in such occupation and to make recommendations as to the minimum rates of wages which should be payable.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall include representatives of employees and such other members as the Governor may deem fit.

The implementation of minimum wages is an instrument of overall economic and social policy which ensures the workers a suitable standard of living, and is designed to avert any form of wage exploitation. Government wages are fixed administratively at a level the economy can sustain and at the same time allowance is made for free movement, since bargaining is done on an individual *ad hoc* basis. The system is applied strictly to the construction industry which absorbs most of the economically active male work force. Other industries and services apply wage rates on the basis of the average which obtains at the particular time. Government wage rates applicable to three new categories of workers are as follows:

General labourers	\$8-00 per day
Heavy equipment operators	\$16-00 per day
Skilled workers	\$10-00-\$16-00 per day

There are no organisations of employees and workers in the Territory. A certificate of registration granted some years ago to a trade union was recently cancelled, as it never actually went into effective operation. The onus of responsibility to act as conciliator in the grievance machinery is vested in the Labour Commissioner, duly appointed under the Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950). Fifty labour disputes were recorded for the year 1971.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 1 of 1962) continues to be the operative law governing claims in respect of indus-

trial accidents. No amendments were made to the Ordinance during the period under review.

Not unlike the rest of the British Caribbean, the effects of the economic depression are reflected in the level of unemployment. Some 272 skilled workers and unskilled workers registered for employment as compared with one-third of that number recorded over the years. Government remains the largest employer of labour with approximately 1,335 workers of which 324 are non-establishment daily paid workers. The Construction Industry, Hotel Industry and Commercial Services follow consecutively in terms of man-power.

In the absence of any form of collective bargaining, the conditions of employment are fully negotiated directly with the employer and the worker. (The Labour Commissioner is however authorised by statute to supervise and review the various forms of employment which exist in the Territory.) The conditions of work are in most cases verbal, but may also take the form of a contract of employment. Certain basic principles such as holiday pay and notice of termination ought however to be emphasised.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE BUDGET

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War the British Virgin Islands boasted a balanced budget and invested surpluses in spite of a low standard of services available to the people. The genesis, a few years after the war, of a deliberate policy of putting the budget into deficit to be made up by grants-in-aid of administration and the receipt of Development and Welfare grants from Her Majesty's Government marked a turning point in the finances of the British Virgin Islands.

Continuing the trend of recent years, recurrent expenditure in 1971 showed a marked increase to reach a total in excess of \$4 million compared with \$3.45 million in 1970. On the other hand, local recurrent revenue showed a small decline from \$3.14 million to \$3.05 million, the resultant widening gap being bridged by Grant-in-Aid from Her Majesty's Government. Details of the main heads of recurrent revenue and expenditure in 1971 (unaudited) are given below with comparative figures for 1970:

RECURRENT REVENUE

	1970 \$	1971 \$
Customs and Excise	1,115,372	1,086,718
Harbour and Wharf Dues	24,077	24,895
Taxes and Licences	834,252	863,278
Fines and Forfeitures	14,228	12,635
Government Departments and Services	185,792	251,679
Post Office	278,911	93,024
Rent of Government Property	62,413	110,698
Interest	21,641	22,015
Miscellaneous Services	158,355	63,688
Electricity	446,236	518,682
	<u>3,141,277</u>	<u>3,047,312</u>

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

	1970 \$	1971 \$
Administration	258,032	305,283
Legal and Judicial	70,660	80,639
Police and Fire Brigade	200,664	206,007
Finance	726,711	926,924
Audit	15,889	15,511
Chief Minister	127,586	150,327
Legislature	30,769	34,177
Education	615,411	703,570
Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health	139,314	65,350
Department of Agriculture	—	59,660
Public Health	444,894	473,693
Ministry of Communications, Works and Industry	108,638	97,224
Public Works	425,724	478,938
Electricity	284,553	427,158
	<u>3,448,845</u>	<u>4,024,461</u>

The main increases in expenditure were on servicing the public debt (included under the Finance Head) and on electricity, both reflecting the major electric power programme, started three years ago and now drawing to a close, which was financed entirely by local loans. In addition to fairly general increases in expenditure on administrative services, expenditure on education, particularly secondary education, continued to rise.

The drop in recurrent revenue in 1971 was disappointing since the 1971 budget had envisaged an increase over the 1970 total. Receipts from electricity were well up on 1970 as were receipts from several secondary sources but in the slack economic conditions prevailing throughout the year import duties failed to reach the 1970 figure despite an increase in rates of duty during the latter part of the year. Import duties now provide approximately one-third of total local revenue. Post Office revenue, which depends mainly on the number of new postage stamp issues, was also down.

Summary figures of capital revenue and expenditure for the past three years are given below:

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Development Aid	—	1,247,366	1,160,391
C.D. and W. Grants	493,577	—	—
Loans	878,834	1,963,799	823,493
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,372,411	3,211,165	1,983,884
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
 <i>Expenditure</i>	 <i>1969</i>	 <i>1970</i>	 <i>1971</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Electricity Extension Scheme	471,082	1,083,312	991,091
General Development	757,875	2,252,642	1,311,025
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,228,957	3,335,954	2,302,116
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Apart from the electricity extension scheme, expenditure in 1971 centred on roads development, the primary school building programme and buildings for administrative purposes, financed from development grants from Her Majesty's Government. The deep-water berth in Road Town has since been brought into operation and further works are in progress at the port.

Agreement was reached during 1971 on the take-over by the Government from the private development company of the existing works and buildings on Anegada and the reclaimed areas of Wickhams Cay, Road Town. Consultants were commissioned to prepare recommendations for the further development of these areas.

TAXATION

Tax is chargeable at the rate of 3% of total income and an additional 12% after deduction of generous allowances. As regards income from

abroad double taxation relief treaties have been in effect for some time between the Territory and the U.K., Canada, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Revision of the treaty with the U.K. is still under consideration. Arrangements also exist for the grant of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries which offer similar reciprocal relief.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE Territory is in a unique currency position, sole legal tender being the United States dollar, although the Territory is part of the sterling area. The currency of the United States of America had been *de facto* currency in general circulation for almost two decades before it became legal tender in 1959. The Territory itself has no exchange control restrictions and dollars may be freely transferred in or out. Special regulations govern the conversion of sterling area currencies into dollars for use in the Territory but every assistance is given to genuine investors to facilitate the conversion of sterling. Applications for such conversions must be made to the Governor who forwards recommended applications to the United Kingdom Exchange Control Authorities for approval. Sterling area conversions which gain such approval may be carried out without payment of the investment dollar premium. Such conversions in 1969 totalled \$6.7 million. In 1970 they amounted to \$2.6 million.

Visitors from the sterling area may cash up to £250 in travellers cheques per month or on each visit to the Territory. They may not, however, operate dollar bank accounts without Exchange Control Approval. There are now four commercial banks in the Territory; the Virgin Islands National Bank (established May 1961), Barclays Bank, D.C.O. (established 1965), the Bank of Nova Scotia (established 1969) and the Chase Manhattan Bank (established 1968).

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE introduction of direct shipping services with the U.K. in 1968 and certain Eastern Caribbean Countries in 1969, and the effect of devaluation of sterling in 1967, have effected an increase in the proportion of imports originating in Commonwealth countries and the United Kingdom at a time when imports have grown rapidly.

Facilities for the handling of ocean going vessels of up to 600 ft. were being constructed throughout 1970 at an area opposite Purcell Village while freighters continued to anchor midway in the harbour and discharge cargo by means of a lighterage service. The vessels which ply regularly to Tortola are from the Booker Line, sailing from Liverpool, The Royal Netherlands Dutch Line (K.N.S.M.), sailing from Europe, and Atlantic and Florida Lines from the United States of America. When the deep-water harbour project is completed, the present facilities will be available exclusively for the use of passenger traffic.

Chapter 6: Production

Industrial

The main industry of the British Virgin Islands is tourism and its constituent services. Water sports including sport fishing are increasing in popularity. Several world record catches of fish, including the blue marlin, tuna and wahoo, have been made in the territorial waters. There is a considerable amount of construction in progress in the form of hotels, guest-houses and residences in the private sector, while the construction of roads, extension of electricity and water supplies are being undertaken by Government.

Agriculture and Fisheries

Most Virgin Islanders own land, and those who farm it do so individually or as a family venture. A number of self-employed persons throughout the Territory engage in fishing, both for home consumption and export to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands. Agriculture is, however, generally declining.

Agricultural Department

The total expenditure of the Department for 1971 was \$58,000, a 9% decrease over the 1970 figure of \$63,950.

Due to the departure of the Livestock Officer late in 1967, the two divisions of the Department, namely Livestock and Crops Divisions, have since been the responsibility of the Superintendent of Agriculture. The staff includes four agricultural officers, one forestry officer, one Executive officer and two clerks.

The activities of the Department continue to include: the provision of planting material for crop husbandry, the improvement and

extension of pastures, the protection of forest and conservation of soil and water, the encouragement of fishing largely through the medium of a Loan Scheme, and the fostering of livestock production by providing breeding stock to farmers and encouraging good animal husbandry.

Weather Conditions

The total rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station for 1971 was 52.09 inches, as compared with 62.02 inches in 1970. (The heaviest showers were experienced from October to December.) The highest daily rainfall recorded was 3.30 inches on the 7th October.

A statement of monthly rainfall figures of the years 1965-71 as recorded at the Agricultural Station, is set out below.

RAINFALL 1965-1971

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
1965	1.68	0.49	0.66	4.08	11.61	2.92
1966	4.34	1.91	1.99	7.54	1.28	2.58
1967	1.36	2.63	0.45	0.30	4.03	3.44
1968	1.98	2.75	2.56	2.28	3.02	5.00
1969	3.61	7.77	0.82	0.62	16.28	4.12
1970	1.98	—	2.49	4.90	4.90	2.40
1971	4.96	3.18	1.73	4.14	6.28	2.81
<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Total</i>
4.11	4.77	4.43	5.53	3.99	4.05	48.32
5.63	4.06	6.29	5.64	5.38	3.85	50.59
2.33	2.43	2.60	6.26	7.29	1.70	34.82
3.48	2.12	5.87	8.17	7.95	6.64	51.82
3.13	7.46	3.53	5.66	11.57	2.54	67.11
4.13	2.55	4.45	20.10	9.09	8.63	65.62
1.91	5.33	3.25	8.04	5.45	5.01	52.09

Agricultural Production

The production of fruits and vegetables is encouraging. Farmers are becoming more aware of the need to increase production both

for local consumption as well as for export. In an attempt to stimulate the production of food locally, it is intended to embark on a food crop production project at Paraquita Bay. In this connection a useful and encouraging report has been submitted by Dr Forde, Agronomist, University of the West Indies (U.W.I.) who made a study of the food crop potentialities of the area and his recommendations are being favourably considered for adoption.

Animal Husbandry

The Department of Agriculture continues to assist by way of loans for pasture improvement and the distribution and/or sales of planting material.

The increase in local consumption of meat has resulted in the greater production of livestock to meet the demand, consequently resulting in a slight decrease in the export of livestock.

During the year, livestock owners kept a constant watch for Screwworm Infestation which attacks cattle, goats and pigs. A regional campaign for screwworm eradication initiated by the Veterinary Authorities in Puerto Rico was introduced into the British Virgin Islands on a cooperative basis. Generally the health of the livestock has been satisfactory. It is hoped that a Livestock Officer will be appointed shortly, and that he will play an important part in the future success of the livestock industry.

Agricultural Shows were held during the year at Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Tortola. These Shows were held annually and have proved extremely useful, both in the way of competition among exhibitors as well as by affording visitors the opportunity of seeing what is or can be produced in the British Virgin Islands.

Forestry

Forestry was carried out under the control of the Government and a voluntary body known as the "National Parks Trust". While both the Government and the National Parks Trust shared common views toward the promotion of forestry, their energies were channelled along slightly different avenues. Government concentrated on:

- (a) the supervision of previously declared "water areas" along water courses and springs;
- (b) the encouragement of tree planting on steep slopes or land considered as unsuitable for general agriculture;
- (c) the production of tree seedlings for distribution to farmers and land owners; and
- (d) the establishment of orchards near to "water areas".

On the other hand the energies of the National Parks Trust were directed towards the improvement of existing park area at Mount Sage. This was the responsibility of the Government Department of Agriculture from commencement of work on the site in 1955 until it was transferred to the Trust in 1959.

Nine hundred trees, most of which were hybrid mahogany, were planted and have shown satisfactory progress. The primeval rain forest, approximately twenty-two acres of park area, is made up of trees of rare species and sizes. This forest is very carefully kept and serves as a tourist attraction.

SURVEYS

Field parties from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys were in the territory during the period 1969–71. They were engaged primarily on the breakdown of the major triangulation to lower order and the survey of control traverses along the roads using a DI 10 Distomat. Senior staff of the Directorate of Overseas Surveys Party and of the Regional Cadastral Survey and Registration Project's Team provided valuable technical advice and assistance to the Ministry.

Complete air photographic coverage of the whole territory was undertaken by Kemps Aerial Surveys Ltd in February 1969—the first complete coverage since 1953. The contract was for the Directorate of Overseas Surveys which by the end of 1971 had produced 30 large-scale sheets at 1:2,500 scale of parts of Tortola and Virgin Gorda. This mapping is in addition to the six coloured printed sheets at 1:25,000 scale, a composite at 1:100,000 and a miniature at 1:200,000 currently available.

Legislation was introduced in 1970 preparatory to the introduction of a systematic and comprehensive cadastral survey and land adjudication project throughout the territory. The object of the Land Adjudication Ordinance, 1970, was to facilitate the demarcation, recording, and adjudication of rights over land. Once the adjudication process is completed the holding of land and dealings in land are subject to the Registered Land Ordinance, 1970. This work is being undertaken by the Regional Cadastral Survey and Registration Project Team financed from British Technical Assistance funds.

LAND UTILIZATION AND TENURE

The demand for land for use as home sites continued in 1971. Many of the interested parties were non-British Virgin Islanders and consequently were required to obtain licences under the Aliens Land

Holding Regulation Act in order to hold land in the Territory. During the year 68 such licences were issued.

During the year under review the Government acquired the interest of Wickhams Cay Limited and the Anegada Development Corporation at a cost of U.S. \$5.8m.

In September 1971, Shankland Cox and Associates, a firm of Economic Consultants, were appointed by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to undertake a study of development possibilities of both areas of land. The Consultants submitted their draft report on Wickhams Cay in December 1971. This identified the major problems requiring solutions, made a quantitative assessment of the uses for which the cay might be a suitable location and proposed an outline development plan. A draft report on Anegada was in preparation but was not completed at the end of the year.

MINING

Interest by prospective investors in the mineral potential of the Territory continued during 1971. The Mining Bill and the Petroleum Mining Bill were in process of preparation at the end of 1971.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

At 31st December, 1971, there were 1,913 children enrolled in the primary schools with 81 teachers to look after them. At the same time there were 745 children at the secondary level with a staff of 45 making a grand total of some 2,658 children and 126 teachers in the territory.

Education remained in 1971 under the portfolio of the Chief Minister.

Advisory Bodies

(i) The Board of Education.

The Minister is advised by a Board of Education (of which he is Chairman). The Board has power to make Regulations dealing with all matters affecting education in the territory, with the proviso that all Regulations so prepared shall have no force or effect until they have been approved by the Governor in Council.

- (ii) The B.V.I. High School Committee advises the Minister on matters concerning the High School but has very limited executive powers.
- (iii) The Primary Schools Commission is advisory to the Minister but has powers to deal with all questions of staff management and discipline in primary schools in accordance with Regulations made under the Ordinance.

The Chief Education Officer is Chairman of each of these Committees and also Secretary of the Board of Education whose Chairman is the Chief Minister. In this way the activities of all three bodies are coordinated with one another and the Ministry.

The staff of the Education Department was increased by the addition, with effect from 1st May, 1971, of an Education Officer particularly concerned with teacher training, and from 3rd May, 1971, of an Evening Institute Organiser, provided under Technical Assistance terms, who was able to take over the Further Education classes and to give valuable advice and help in general administrative matters to the Education Department.

Major Educational Developments in the Caribbean that concerned the B.V.I.

- (i) During the year discussion continued on the need for setting up a Caribbean Examination Council and a Council of Legal Education. At a conference of Commonwealth Caribbean Education Officials and University Representatives held in Antigua on 26th and 27th April, 1971, which was attended by the Chief Education Officer, it was agreed to examine the administrative, technical and financial provisions for the establishment and operation of the Council so that action could be taken to bring about the establishment of the Council without delay.
- (ii) At a later conference held in Montserrat, 22nd–26th November, 1971, attended by the Chief Minister and the Chief Education Officer, it was agreed in principle by all those participating to support the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council subject to ratification by the various Governments.

STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION

Primary Education

School attendance figures for 1971 show a high average percentage of attendance by the 1,913 children enrolled in the primary and post

primary sections of the primary schools. The proportion of teachers to pupils, 81 to 1,913 is 24:1; but only 34 of 81 (42%) of the teachers are trained and many are inexperienced. However as 19 teachers are away on training courses there should be an early improvement in the position.

Teacher Training—Local

The U.W.I. Inservice Course continued with 8 teachers completing the course and being successful in their examinations.

The School Survey

A major event of the year was the School Survey which began in November and which will include all the 14 primary schools and the High School. The professional staff of the Department, with the addition of the Evening Institute Organiser, himself an experienced education officer, spent one or more days, depending on the size of the school, seeing classes at work, studying the school syllabuses and the teachers' workbooks, and at the end of the visit having a full discussion with the Principal and staff on matters that emerged from the classwork seen and recorded.

Post Primary Education

Post Primary Education is still given in a few of the primary schools where there is a sufficient number of pupils who are either unable to get easily to Road Town to attend the High School there, or whose parents, after consultation with the Principal concerned, consider that their children, by remaining for an extra period in the school, would complete their primary course more satisfactorily.

CEDO (the Centre for Educational Development Overseas) Maths and Science courses, designed for the 12-15 aged groups, are run at the High School and at St Mary's School on an experimental basis. The teachers in charge of supervising these classes attend special seminars arranged and financed by CEDO.

Private Primary Schools

There are six private unaided schools and three others each of which received a small grant as a Community School. All these schools were included in the Survey of Schools held late in the year. The enrolment of the unaided private schools is 225 (104 boys and

121 girls) between the ages of 2 and 11. They serve a useful purpose in providing education below the normal age of entry to the Government primary schools and depend entirely on fees to pay salaries and overhead costs. Only one private school, that in Carrot Bay, has both primary and post primary sections. One school which has a small infant section offers training in typing to a few adult students.

The B.V.I. High School: Secondary Education

The year 1971 was mainly one of consolidation of the major improvements carried out in 1970. Staff and new pupils settled down more easily as there was no abnormal influx of new pupils in September (unlike the double entry in 1970). Discipline and tone greatly improved.

Staff

The Principal was ably assisted by three Assistant Principals, two of whom are also Heads of Departments, and three other Heads of Departments each of whom is responsible for coordinating the teaching in specified subject areas throughout the school. The Assistant Principals have duties more directly concerned with the administration and planning of the work of the school as a whole.

Of the staff of 45 (as at December 1971) there are 20 graduates, 12 of whom are trained, and 25 assistants, of whom 11 are trained teachers, some seconded from the primary schools. The school was fortunate in being able to obtain, often at short notice, teachers with special qualifications in Physical Education, Art and Electronics. A beginning was made in teaching automobile engineering.

A Norwegian Development Company made a generous grant of \$45,000 of which \$9,000 are for equipment, to provide a new two-storey block which will house a General Shop, an Electronics workshop and an Art Room. There was much disappointment that unexpected delay in building prevented the completion and equipping of this block within the year. Work in Art and Electronics is being done, albeit with difficulty, in other rooms.

Grounds for playing basketball and other games, and netball courts, have been considerably improved.

Pupils

The prefect system has helped to give training in leadership. The House pattern of organisation provides a basis of healthy competition and development of loyalty to a team.

Public Library

The Library Committee met twice during the year. A programme of inservice training was given to staff by the Librarian, and a good deal of reorganisation took place in the physical layout of the library to make the rooms more pleasant and efficient for use and study for young and old readers. A reference and information service was set up, particular emphasis being given to the reference section which is now well patronised.

The Library became a member of the Association of Caribbean University and Research Libraries.

New developments included the introduction of evening hours once a week, a weekly bookmobile visit to the hospital, and the extension of the story hour programme to the out districts. Representations to the Overseas Book Centre resulted in a valuable gift of a wide variety of books. An art exhibition and art contest were sponsored in April. Despite problems of obtaining suitable vehicles, twenty-four runs were made to 13 schools and communities and a total of 2,911 books was circulated. Four radio talks were given; various press releases have kept the public informed of new additions and developments.

*Adult Education**Extra-Mural Activities*

For the first half of the year extra-mural classes were organised and supervised by the Chief Education Officer, who is the Local Representative of the Extra-Mural Department of the University of the West Indies.

With effect from September new classes began in Dress Making, Woodwork, History and Biology. Classes continued in English (for G.C.E. and L.C.C.), Maths (for G.C.E. and L.C.C.), Spanish, Book-Keeping (Elementary and Advanced), and Typing and Shorthand (Elementary and Advanced). All these classes were held at the B.V.I. High School.

The total class enrolments have been as follows:

January term: 110; April term: 72; September term: 167.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

The year of 1971 was one of continuing improvement, particularly in areas which had received little attention in previous years. At the

42 bed hospital, whilst no new additions were made, some refurbishing took place particularly at the labour ward, anaesthetic room and kitchens. The Red Cross Society also did excellent work in repainting and decorating the infirmary. The generous contributions of the Rotary Club and other group and individual sources have been invaluable in the provision of equipment. The new addition to the Nurses Home was completed. Two new clinics were opened and the public health nursing staff increased their activities both in schools and district Children's Welfare Clinics. Environmental sanitation programmes, particularly in areas of garbage removal, water supplies and sewage disposal, have improved.

Plans are under way for a new 60-bed hospital on the existing site. It is hoped that there will be all essential facilities, including casualty, out-patient and dental care centres, which will be a welcomed improvement in the existing conditions.

The death rate remains approximately the same with cardiovascular disease, malignant disease and accidental death being the largest figures, while it is noted that the birth rate has shown a steady rise since 1969 from 21.5 per 1,000 to 30.0 per 1,000.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1970	1971
Still Births . . .	2	5
Live Births . . .	256	262
TOTAL BIRTHS . . .	258	267
Deaths . . .	28	28
		(18 males and 10 females)
Neonatal Deaths . . .	2	3
TOTAL DEATHS . . .	30	31

MEDICAL AND HEALTH STAFF

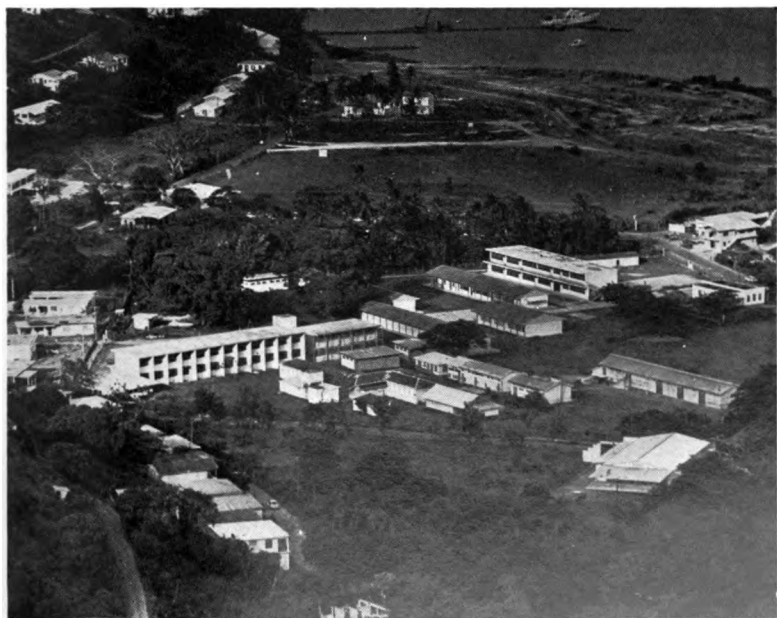
There were no changes in the doctors on the staff in the department.

Three staff nurses went to Britain for further training in midwifery, operating theatre techniques, mental nursing and paediatric nursing.

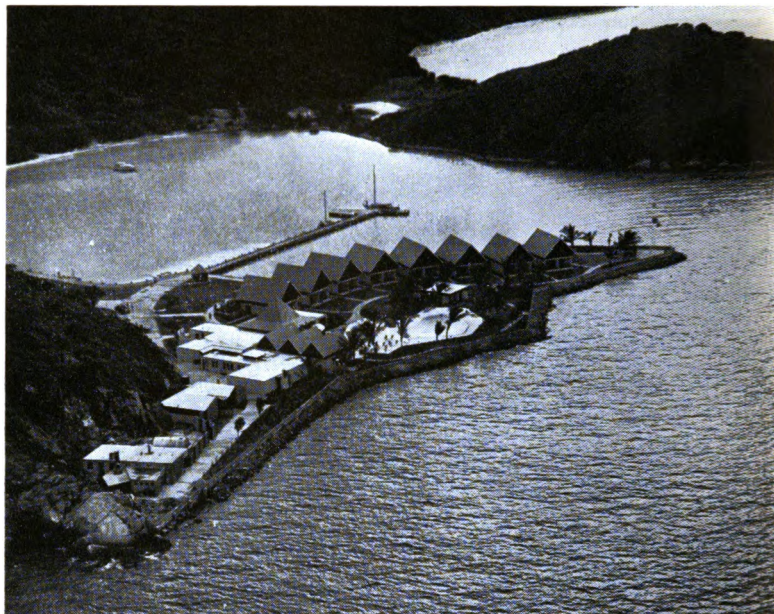
The Health Department was strengthened by the return of a Public Health Inspector, who completed a four-month course in Food and Meat Inspection in Jamaica.



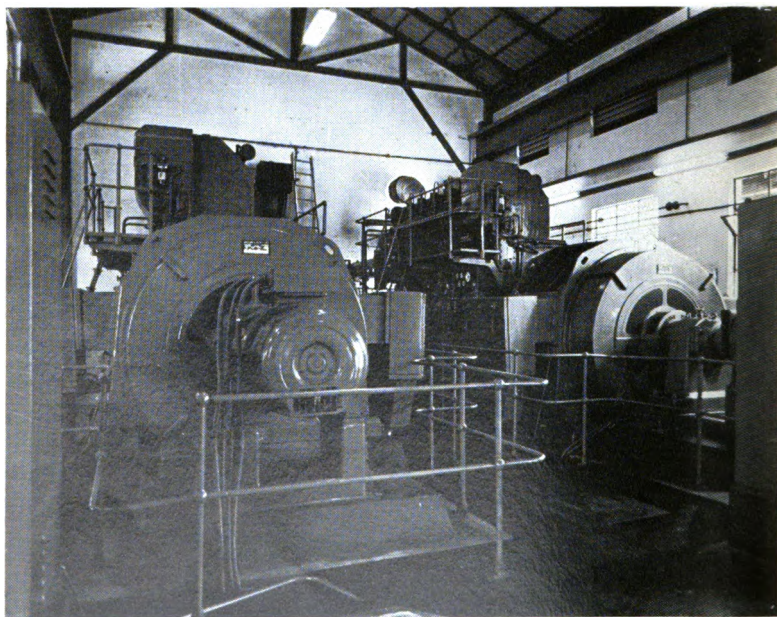
Ferry Boat, Bomba Charger—Runs between United States Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands



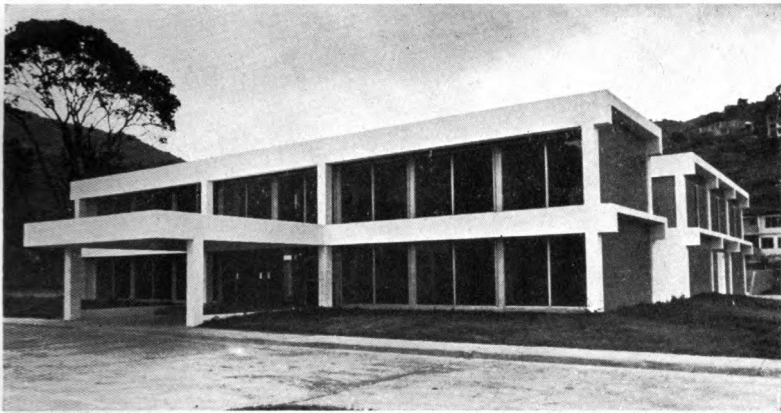
View of British Virgin Islands High School, Road Town, Tortola



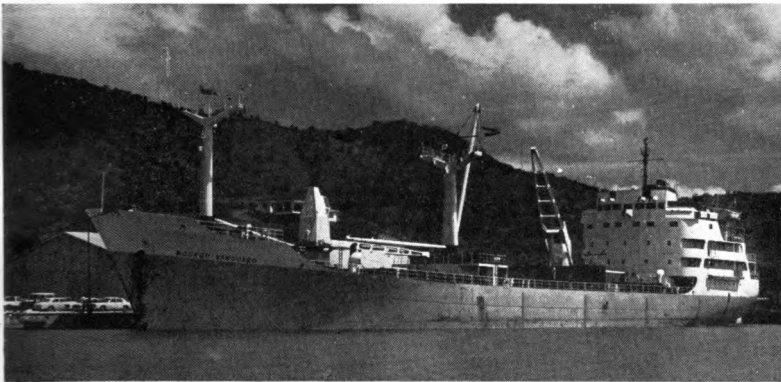
Peter Island Hotel and Yacht Club



Part of Engine Room Power Plant, Road Town, Tortola



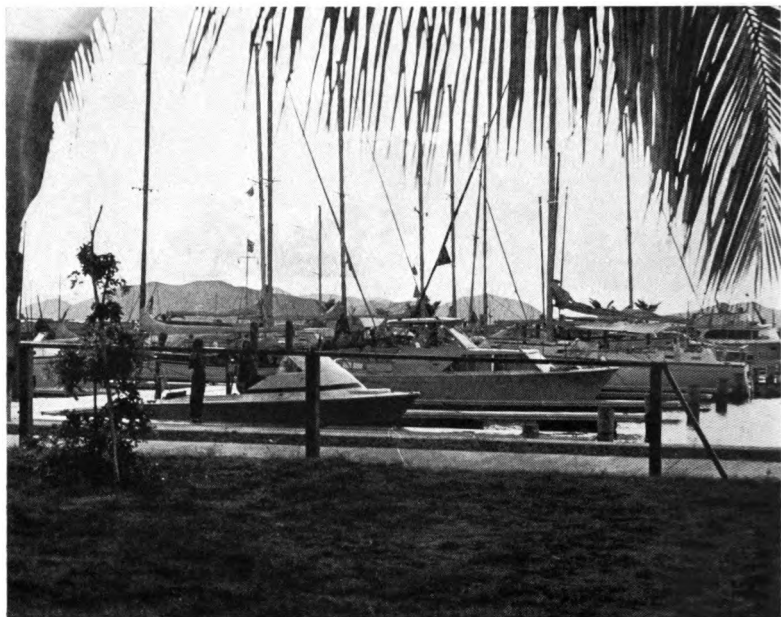
New Police Headquarters—Road Town, Tortola



Cargo Boat, Booker Vanguard from Liverpool, England, at Port Purcell, British Virgin Islands



Waterfront—Road Harbour, Road Town, Tortola



Little Dix Bay Marina—Virgin Gorda



View of Wickham's Cay Development Project—Road Town, Tortola

IMMUNISATIONS

The vigorous efforts of the Public Health staff and the great response of the public to the appeal from the department for better health, are seen in the table below:

Vaccination Against Smallpox .	1970	1971
Primary:		
Children	69	136
Adults	—	1
Re-vaccination		
Children	—	55
Adults	269	299
	1970	1971
Children who completed primary immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	993	272
Children who received their "Booster" doses .	43	82
Vaccination against poliomyelitis	—	1,092
Typhoid Fever	—	21
Tetanus Toxoid	—	185
Measles	—	210

HOSPITAL SERVICES

There was a considerable drop in the admissions during 1971 which may be the fruit of the active services rendered by the Public Health Department throughout the Territory.

	1970	1971
Patients admitted	1,130	1,092
Outdoor patients	3,692	3,594
Casualties	—	4,024
Major operations	227	102
Minor operations	126	277
Dental operations	—	252
Deaths	30	31

MATERNITY SERVICES

Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics	127	154
New Attendances	158	165
Total Attendances	410	563

SCHOOL HEALTH

A series of visits to both Government and Private schools was made by the Public Health Staff during the year. At the B.V.I. High School,

in addition to routine medical examination, immunisation against tetanus was also carried out. A visit was made to Anegada at which medical examinations were carried out on almost all of the school children.

INFANT WELFARE

During the year it was found possible to hold general clinics three times a week at East End, weekly at Carrot Bay and twice monthly at Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. In addition to these general clinics, infant welfare and antenatal clinics are provided in each district by the resident nurse. Monthly visits are made by a Public Health team for the purpose of immunisation and infant welfare. Areas also served are West End, Sea Cows Bay, Belle Vue and Cane Garden Bay. New clinic buildings were opened during the year at East End, Jost Van Dyke and Cane Garden Bay.

Infant Welfare		1970	1971
Clinics held . . .		205	206
Attendance . . .		2,418	4,708

BLOOD BANK AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES

A small blood bank refrigerator was purchased and a small emergency supply of blood is now maintained. To meet the demand a drive for blood donors was held, great assistance being given by the Red Cross. The final total of volunteers, willing to come on request to donate blood, was most satisfactory and for the first time the transfusion service can be said to be reliable.

MENTAL HEALTH

It has been customary in the past to refer all severely disturbed patients to hospital in Antigua. The availability of this service has been highly appreciated even though the expense of sending patients to Antigua was high. During 1971 it was decided to attempt to treat all mental patients in Peebles Hospital, the availability of the new sedative and tranquilising drugs being the important factor. 21 moderately to severely disturbed patients were admitted to hospital during the year. The condition of the patients is satisfactory and no relapses have been recorded.

PRISON HEALTH SERVICE

The Medical Officer continued to visit Her Majesty's Prison attending the inmates of the Prison.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Meetings of the Board of Health were held at regular intervals, their main objective being the discussion and recommendation of regulations to increase the effectiveness of the Public Health Ordinance. The passage of the Public Health Regulations to control the disposal of house refuse and the control of mosquitoes was a great asset.

DENTAL TREATMENT

There has been a steady improvement in the dental service. The number of items of treatment to school children has been greatly increased. The department offers a much wider range of facilities than ever before; an X-Ray developing room has been added and general anaesthetic sessions are available once a week. Every branch of specialist dentistry is now covered by the present staff.

Chapter 8: Legislation

DURING the year 1971 twenty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislature and forty-one Statutory Rules and Orders were made. The most important Ordinances were:

- (a) The Constitution and Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, which mainly provided that voters should be ordinarily resident for three years in the Virgin Islands to vote and 5 out of 7 years to be nominated for election;
- (b) The Explosives Ordinance, to make new provisions for the importation, safe storage and use of explosives.

*Chapter 9: Justice and Prisons***JUSTICE**

JUSTICE is administered in the Territory by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court comprising the Court of Appeal and the

High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court.

The High Court is presided over by a Puisne Judge. It has an original jurisdiction in all matters which are heard and determined by the High Court of Justice in England, a summary jurisdiction whereby the Court hears and determines without a jury civil actions whether of a legal or equitable nature and suits within the civil jurisdiction of the Magistrate in which the debt, damage claimed or the amount or value does not exceed \$840; and in cases where the parties consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed \$1,200. The Court is held before one Judge.

The Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice and two Justices of Appeal sits in the Territory at times selected by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice sits as the President of this Court. Appeals from the High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court lie to the Court of Appeal. In certain cases there is also a further appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council.

General sittings of the High Court in its Criminal and Civil jurisdiction are held during the months of March and October. Special sittings for the hearing of civil cases are also held as necessary. The Puisne Judge resident in the State of St Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla normally sits in the Virgin Islands. In September 1970 the joint post of Magistrate/Registrar was divided, and a Legal Assistant was assigned to the Attorney General's Chambers. The Registrar of the High Court is also Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal.

The Magistrate's Court can hear and determine all complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of \$360 in contract and \$180 in tort. The Territory is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the Court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, (Cap. 45) of the Revised Edition 1961 of the Laws of the Virgin Islands. Both the Registrar and Legal Assistant are additional Magistrates of the Virgin Islands.

PRISONS

General

The British Virgin Islands Prison Service is established under the Prisons Ordinance, (Cap. 166), which remained without amendment during 1971. The Service comes within the portfolio of the Chief Minister of Government.

Prison accommodation remained unaltered during the year 1971. Plans are in hand for a new prison to be built.

Administration and Staff

During 1971 there was no change in the basic administrative structure of the Service, which remained under the Command of the Chief of Police, who is also designated as Keeper of Prisons. The establishment for Prison staff remained unaltered at one Prison Corporal and one Prison Warder.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities**ELECTRICITY***General*

THIS has been an eventful year in the expansion and development of the Electricity Supply Industry in Tortola and the dependent islands. Contracts to the value of One million dollars (\$1 million) were started and virtually completed extending the electricity service to the Valley and North Sound, Virgin Gorda and the Camanoes; in addition, the department's direct labour force constructed many miles of power lines to commercial and domestic developments in Tortola, and the Power Station capacity was increased with the installation and commissioning of a diesel alternator set.

Under the terms of the Electricity Ordinance, provision was made for the establishment of an Electricity Board, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Electrical Engineer.

Units generated

The total Units generated, with earlier years' figures for comparison, are as follows:

	1969	1970	1971
Units Generated (kWh)	4,202,825	6,046,643 (44%)	7,411,778 (22.5%)

Percentage increase over previous year shown in brackets.

Consumers Connected

The total number of consumers connected to the system on 31st December was two thousand, one hundred and seventy (2,170), the increase over the previous year being four hundred and twenty-eight or 23.4%. There is an expected demand in the areas of residential yacht marina developments and condominiums.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads

The expenditure in 1970 on remedial works following the floods had made all roads passable but work on replacing damaged bridges and culverts and on restoring the worst sections continued into 1971.

Works on the Jost Van Dyke Bridge, Jackass Ghut Bridge, Long Bush Ghut drain and Huntums Ghut Bridge were undertaken in 1971. A road to eliminate the dangers at Fort Hill was made possible by the construction of Port Purcell and agreement was reached with the landowners for the works. Completion is expected in 1972 when a slipway is moved to allow the road to go through. Development Aid funds were made available for the complete restoration of the Road Town to West End road (Project 25) and work was started on the worst section in August 1971. By December four miles of road had been completed.

Work on reclamation between Customs House and Government House was started to provide protection for 7,000 yards of fill available from dredging works.

Water Supplies

Country water supplies consist mainly of shallow wells, the ownership of many of which is doubtful, and cisterns built by Government usually with an inadequate catchment. No work was undertaken on cisterns during 1971. However, some pumps provided from United Nations funds were installed on wells—the intention was to reduce the contamination of wells caused by use of buckets for drawing water. Improvement of the Road Town Water Supply was made by the installation of a simple chlorinator. A new reservoir with a capacity of 125,000 gallons was put in use as the old one was cracked and could not be filled to more than 25% of capacity.

Chapter 11: Communications

THERE are about forty miles of motor roads in the Territory. The newly reconstructed Beef Island Airport was opened in April 1969. The new extended runway is 3,200 feet long and 90 feet wide, with 200-foot over-runs at each end. The airport is now capable of receiving Avro 748 50-seat turbo-jet aircraft. Plans were announced for a new terminal building. Anegada airfield was opened in July 1969; the runway is approximately 2,000 feet long and capable of accommo-

dating aircraft of 12,500 pounds weight. There is also an airstrip at Virgin Gorda.

Scheduled or chartered air services were operated by Leeward Island Air Transport, Priuair, All-Island Air, White Sands Aviation, Caribbean Air Services, Anguilla Airways, Dorado Wings and Trade Winds. In 1969, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company began a new shipping service to the Territory from London and Amsterdam. The Territory is also served by the Atlantic Lines from New York, and by the Florida Line from Miami (United States). A direct Booker Line freight shipping service has been opened from Liverpool to Tortola. There is also a very reliable daily launch service between the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St Thomas).

Cable and Wireless Ltd. continued to operate the Territory's telephone and telegraph communications. There are approximately 800 telephone lines in use throughout the Territory along with telex service.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Service

THERE is a sole newspaper which is published weekly, *The Island Sun*. ZBVI, a commercial radio station, and the only radio station, operates from Baughers Bay at 780 kilocycles with 10,000 watts and covers most of the Eastern Caribbean. In January 1969 Dukane Television (West Indies) Ltd. was issued a licence to install and operate a television station.

There is no local production or distribution of films. A commercial cinema, the Carib Cinema in Road Town, shows feature films. British news-reels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information and other sources are shown by the Community Development Centre.

Government issues News Releases informing the press and radio and the public of all Government news of general interest. Fact Sheets and other hand-outs are also available to persons desiring information about the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Virgin Islands of St Thomas and St Croix, contain over forty British Islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St Kitts, and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25' N.$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30' W.$ They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution, the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles, are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit, lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass, so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide, it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands, except Anegada, rise precipit-

ously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments, into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metalliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams, with frequent outcrops of bare rocks. Anegada has very little soil; limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a subtropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87°F., and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes sometimes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places, the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes, mainly *croton rigidus*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the

coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The Flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola. Being of scientific interest, this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes, mainly croton discolour. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 20 per cent of the population live in Road Town, the capital of the Territory, and its environs. A slightly lower percentage live in East End/Long Look the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out-islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only a few families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Three of these, Guana Island, Peter Island and Marina Cay are tourist resorts.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the territory. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported. The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a livestock industry.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income, went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. However, the demand for labour in the United States Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist industry, seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the territory can never become economically viable with small-scale agricultural and livestock raising as a base and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' natural features for tourism. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various islands to each other and the surrounding sea provide a setting for tourists. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a centre for boating and fishing enthusiasts. The economic outlook, therefore, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November, 1493, by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgenes in honour of St Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1593, when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through, the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British

Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St Kitts. Eight years later, several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile, pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lbs. (this includes Anguilla) against 'but 1,000 hogshead of sugar'.

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, the Sir Francis Drake Channel became a rendezvous for British ships homeward bound and the presence of numerous merchant ships brought a good deal of trade to Tortola. With the end of these wars there commenced a period of decline and by the time of the abolition of slavery, 1st August, 1838, the trade of the islands was languishing. The landed proprietors left and the islands continued to decline economically until by 1900 the whole export and import trade was valued at only £6,199.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of six non-elected members—three *ex officio* and three nominated—was substituted. In 1872, the Federation of the Leeward Islands was created and the separate colonies, including the British Virgin Islands, became Presidencies. In 1889, the official designation of President was, however, changed to Commissioner. In 1902, the Legislative Council was abolished.

A Legislative Council with elected representatives was re-introduced in 1950. This system of Government continued with minor changes, until 1967 when, under a revised Constitution, the Ministerial System of Government was introduced into the Territory for the first time. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) one Nominated Member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven Elected Members returned from seven one-

member electoral districts. The Executive Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two *ex officio* Members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister appointed by the Governor as the Elected Member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. Responsibility for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, Finance and the administration of the Courts rests with the Governor.

Following the decline of the plantation system, the Territory became a society of small farmers and fishermen. A large number of the younger population migrated to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands where employment opportunities were afforded to them particularly after the Second World War, as a result of the development taking place there. In view of this trend and the importance of St Thomas as an entrepot port and a shopping centre, the economy of the islands has been, and still is, closely bound up with that of their American neighbours. The currency in both official and practical use is the United States dollar, the Territory being the only place in the sterling area where this obtains.

In October 1966, a Constitutional Conference was held in London with a view to drawing up a new constitution for the Territory, based on the report of a constitutional commissioner (Miss Mary Proudfoot).

In April 1967, a semi-ministerial form of government came into effect, under the terms of the new Constitution.

Following are some of the important dates in the Territory's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through the channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.

- 1774 Legislature met for the first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.
- 1838 Abolition of slavery.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution; Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1872 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature reconstituted.
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands colony and establishment of colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December, 1959, and the Administrator became The Queen's Representative.
- 1966 Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1967 Revised Constitution introduced from 30th March, 1967, bringing ministerial government into effect.

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

The Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into force of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I., No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2. chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony (Antigua, St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) into separate colonies.

A new constitution was brought into effect by the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order 1967. The new constitution came into effect in April 1967 and provides for the first time for a ministerial system. The Governor remains responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of the courts and

finance, and continues to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council is comprised of the Governor as Chairman, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Justice was formerly administered in the Territory by the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court, and a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court visits the islands twice a year. With the replacement of the Supreme Court by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, arrangements have been made for this Court to serve the Virgin Islands.

A General Election was held on 2nd June, 1971, and the B.V.I. Democratic Party secured three seats, the Virgin Islands Party two seats, the B.V.I. United Party one seat and an independent candidate one seat. The Government was constituted as follows:

Governor

D. G. Cudmore, O.B.E.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Governor (Chairman)

Attorney General (ex officio)

Financial Secretary (ex officio)

Chief Minister

*Minister for Natural Resources
and Public Health*

*Minister for Communications,
Works and Industry*

Hon. N. O. Jacobs

Hon. C. B. Romney

Hon. W. Wheatley, M.B.E.

Hon. C. A. Maduro

Hon. O. Cills

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Speaker

Attorney General (ex officio)

Financial Secretary (ex officio)

Nominated Member

Hon. H. R. Penn, M.B.E.

Hon. I. Dawson

Elected Members

Hon. W. Wheatley, M.B.E.
 Hon. C. A. Maduro
 Hon. O. Cills
 Dr. the Hon. Q. W. Osborne
 Hon. H. L. Stoutt
 Hon. R. George
 Hon. A. A. Henley

Local Government

There was no local government organisation in the Territory and little or no interest was shown in the subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial weights and measures are used in the Territory. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is required by law.

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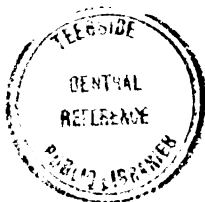
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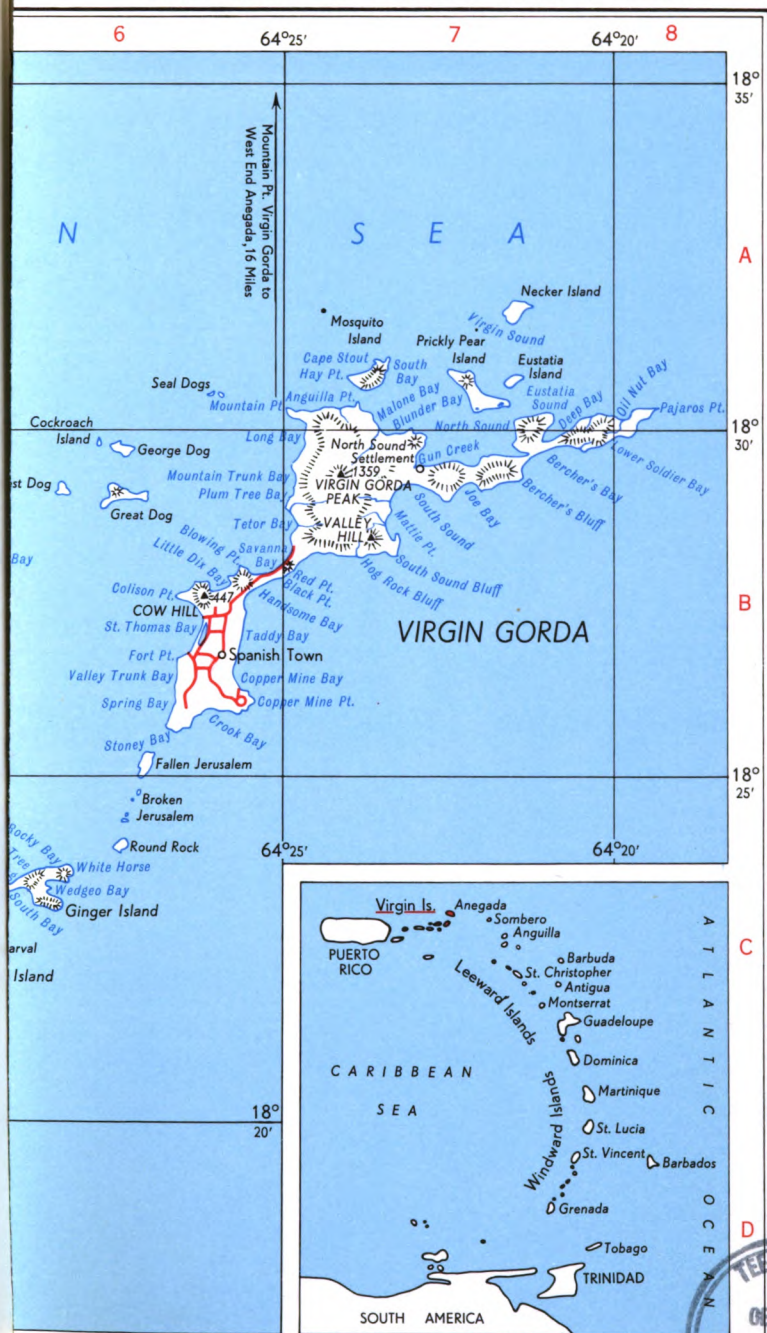
Cockroach
Island

st Dog

St. George's
Island

Island

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Seal Dogs

Cockroach

Island

George Dog

Great Dog

Great Dog

COW HILL

St. Thomas

Fort Pitt

Valley Trunk Bay

Spring Bay

Stoney Bay

Fallen Jerusalem

Broken

Jerusalem

Round Rock

White Horse

St. George Bay

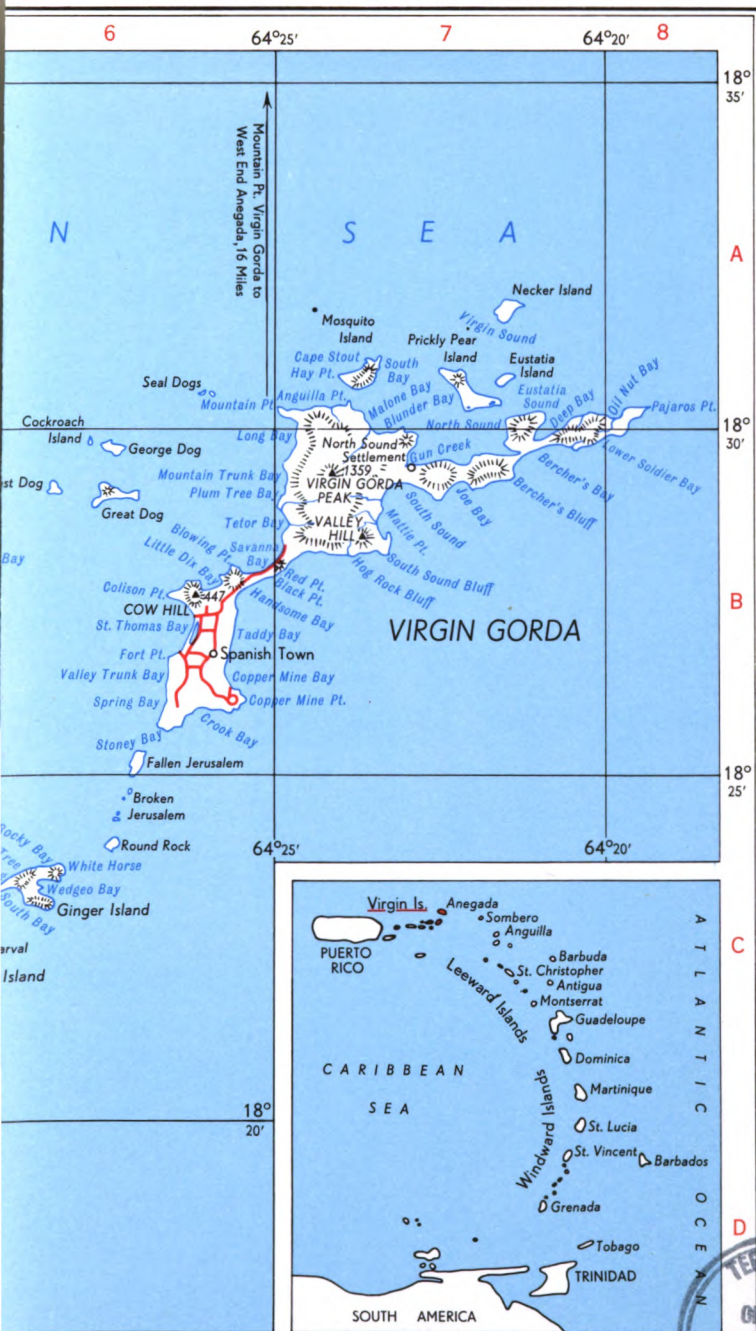
Ginger Island

Island

18°

20°

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PART I

General Review 1972

IN March, 1972, the territory was honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, on the occasion of the commemoration of 300 years of the territory's association with Britain. This event was the main highlight of the year and the warmth of the welcome accorded to Her Royal Highness demonstrated once again the genuine affection and esteem in which members of the Royal Family are held by the people of the British Virgin Islands. Although the visit was only of 3 days' duration, Her Royal Highness's programme included a welcome ceremony at the Legislative Council Chamber, attendance at a Youth Rally, a visit to the Hospital, the opening of the Deep Water Pier and visits to Virgin Gorda and Peter Island.

In his address of welcome to Her Royal Highness, the Chief Minister expressed the Government's appreciation of the enduring benefits which the territory has derived from the United Kingdom during the past three centuries and of that country's continuing interest in and assistance to the territory both financial and technical. Although the early years of colonisation are shrouded in some uncertainty, it is established that, following initial occupation by buccaneers, Tortola was taken from the Dutch by the then Governor of the Leeward Islands in the name of the Crown in 1672. It was subsequently settled by English planters and the territory remained under British Rule ever since—hence the reason for marking in 1972, the occasion of 300 years of Association with Britain.

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. D. G. Cudmore, C.B.E. left the territory on vacation leave on 3rd September, 1972 and returned to post on 4th December, 1972. During his absence the affairs of the territory were administered by His Excellency Mr. N. D. Matthews, O.B.E., who acted as Governor.

The year 1972 saw an increasing number of officially-sponsored visitors to the territory. Among these were Mr. D. A. Scott, C.M.G., Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 8th–11th February; Mr. N. B. J. Huijsman, Head of

West Indian and Atlantic Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 30th November to 3rd December; Mr. T. J. Wilshire of West Indian and Atlantic Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 30th November to 7th December and Mr. J. E. Rednall, Head of the British Development Division in the Caribbean in April, and by several advisers from that Division at different times during the year. The territory was also visited by Col. Max Robinson, D.S.O., Secretary, West Indian Committee in March and by Commander R. E. Peyton-Jones, D.S.O., M.B.E., D.S.C., R.N., Secretary, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, 2nd to 4th November.

In addition the territory was pleased to welcome visits by the following naval vessels:

French Minesweeper *Canopus* from 23rd–25th March.

H.M.S. Jupiter from 29th February to 1st March and again from 7th–9th June.

H.M.S. Berwick from 1st–5th June, naval contingents from which participated in a parade on the occasion of the celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday.

Units of the British Navy carried out exercises with the U.S. Navy in the area in February and spent a few days in territorial waters, one of the participating ships being *H.M.S. Ark Royal*.

POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL

The territory operates under a Ministerial System of Government which was introduced in 1967. The Governor is responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, the Administration of the Courts and Finance, and has reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities. On other matters he is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister, and seven elected Members returned from seven one-member electoral

districts, the division of seats between the political parties at the 1971 election being – the Democratic Party, three seats; the Virgin Islands Party, two seats; and the B.V.I. United Party, one seat. One Independent candidate was also elected.

RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Relations between the British and U.S. Virgin Islands continued to be cordial. By proclamation, Saturday, 21st October, 1972 was observed as British Virgin Islands/United States Virgin Islands Day throughout the British Virgin Islands. A similar proclamation was issued in the United States Virgin Islands. On that occasion the British Virgin Islands invited several dignitaries from the U.S. Virgin Islands including the Governor and his wife and members of the Legislature to celebrate the occasion. The aim of the celebration was to establish lasting ties between the two territories which at one point are separated by only one mile of Sea. In their welcome addresses the Acting Governor, the Chief Minister and the Speaker of the Legislative Council, all expressed delight over the close relationship existing among the peoples of the two territories and offered their best wishes for further strengthening the bonds of friendship. The Speaker also stated that “although it may be a dream, the day may come when the two closely knit territories will be under one flag”.

In his remarks, the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands told the gathering of his many years of affiliation with the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference. He considered that the Conference had functioned to the common advantage of the two groups of islands and called for strengthening the bonds of friendship in the years ahead. Two senators from the United States Virgin Islands also repeated the recommendation previously made for the absorption of the British Virgin Islands into the United States Virgin Islands.

The Opposition Leader in the British Virgin Islands Legislative Council called for the elimination of red tape governing travel between the two territories. The Chief Immigration Officer of the United States Virgin Islands agreed to make the necessary recommendations to his Government. The event proved to be successful and it is proposed that one day a year will be proclaimed United States Virgin Islands/British Virgin Islands Friendship Day, the next joint celebration to be held in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

There has been close cooperation between the two Governments in the field of narcotics. A useful conference held in the U.S. Virgin

Islands was attended by a delegation from the British Virgin Islands and in turn the latter territory invited to its shores a group for further discussion. Relations between the Police Forces of the two groups were most cordial.

THE ECONOMY

The recession in the British Virgin Islands' economy which characterised the years 1970 and 1971, continued into 1972. There was very little construction activity undertaken on Wickham's Cay although two banks were completed and opened by the end of the year. The remedial engineering work was not commenced, but a project management team was selected and the project manager arrived at the end of the year. Construction of a hotel at Biras' Creek continued throughout the year and other jetty, land reclamation and housing developments were in evidence. Road buildings and road reconstruction were among the major public projects undertaken, with extensive improvements to the road from the airport to Road Town, a diversion along the waterfront in Road Town and a complete resurfacing of the road to West End. By the end of the year construction of a new Public Works Depot at Baugher's Bay was well advanced, while early in the year the new Police Headquarters in Road Town was completed and occupied. Essential repairs and renovations were carried out at Government House while primary school buildings were further improved and a new one completed at Long Look. The electricity extension scheme was completed on Virgin Gorda by mid-year, with a further 238 consumers being connected. By the year end, nearly all households in the territory desiring electricity supply were connected to the supply network.

The final import figures for 1971 showed a fall of \$1.5 million below the 1970 figure of \$8.7 million. Full data are not yet available for 1972, but in the last quarter of that year imports were valued at \$2.00 million, which suggests there was little change from the 1971 level. There was a slight fall in the value of bank loans at the end of the year to \$18.1 million. The labour force was stabilised during the year at around the 3,000 mark, with some signs of unemployment.

The number of tourists arriving continued to show an encouraging growth with nearly 45,000 arrivals during the year, 16 per cent higher than in 1971. The total expenditure by tourists is estimated to have been in excess of \$5 million during 1972, while the cost-of-

living is estimated to have increased by between 4 and 5 per cent during the year. In general the domestic economy continued to operate at a low level and the slacking off of investments may be attributable to the world monetary scene with rising inflationary pressures, coupled with the devaluation of the U.S. dollar.

At the end of the year, there were encouraging signs that investment would be considerably higher in 1973 than in the two preceding years. New development projects continued. The pattern of tourism continued to be the major factor for economic development in the British Virgin Islands.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

One of the main high-lights of the year was the visit to the territory from the 7th to the 10th March of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret who created a most favourable impression in the minds of everyone. The territory was most appreciative of the honour.

The cultural and social life of the territory is a fusion of the indigenous culture influenced by the African heritage and moulded by the Western culture.

Steelband and calypso, the music of the West Indies, is strongly ingrained in the life of the people. Western popular music is also greatly appreciated. There are several night clubs, and dances on weekend nights are a favourite pastime. The August Festival is a traditional feature of indigenous artistry each year.

Sports, especially softball, baseball, cricket and athletics are widely enjoyed by the Virgin Islands community. There are several sports organisations e.g. B.V.I. Amateur Athletic Association, B.V.I. Cricket Association and B.V.I. Football Association. Increasing interest is being shown in aquatic sports, particularly sport fishing and sailing. Horse racing is a big feature of the August Festival.

Civic bodies such as the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Jaycees, the Red Cross Society, Girl Guides and others, operate within the territory.

Religion plays a large part in the life of the people of the Virgin Islands, where there are several different churches and sects of the Christian faith. The peoples of the territory are mainly of African extraction with a sizeable number of Europeans and a sprinkling of people from the rest of the world. The pattern of migration to the United States Virgin Islands and continental U.S.A. as existed

in previous years continues to be followed and in spite of substantial immigration from Europe and the Americas the territory's population growth remains fairly constant.

The Community Development Office was set up in 1964, its objective being to build up the social and cultural life of the territory.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Of the 329 employees on the establishment at the end of 1972, 140 were on the permanent and pensionable establishment, 115 were on temporary appointments, 54 on contract and 13 were officers serving under Overseas Service Aid Schemes. Other officers rendered service to the territory under the United Kingdom Technical Assistance Scheme, the Corps of Specialists Scheme, the Voluntary Service Overseas Programme as well as on secondment from the U.K. Civil Service. Valuable assistance has been received from these officers in other fields of Financial Control, Customs and Excise, Accounting, Audit and Public Works. In addition there was a Cadastral Survey Project in operation throughout the year with personnel selected and paid for by the U.K. Government. Representations were received from Staff Associations to the effect that the rising cost of living (25% increase since 1968) made it necessary to consider salary revisions. It was agreed in principle that such a survey would be carried out early in 1973.

HONOURS

On the occasion of Her Majesty's official birthday the following awards were made:-

To be a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: His Excellency, Mr. Derek George Cudmore, O.B.E.
To be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Mr. Carlton Leslie Evelyn de Castro.
British Empire Medal: Miss Rosa Malone.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE last census in 1970 resulted in a total corrected population figure of 10,298, an increase of nearly 40 per cent over the figure recorded in the 1960 census. Movement to and from the British Virgin Islands has been considerable in recent years and, in large part, the population increase was the result of substantial immigration following the territory's rapid but short-lived economic expansion in the later 1960s. The distribution of the population in 1970 was as follows:

Tortola	.	.	.	.	8,866
Virgin Gorda	.	.	.	.	938
Anegada	.	.	.	.	294
Jost Van Dyke	.	.	.	.	124
Other Islands	.	.	.	.	76
					<hr/>
					10,298

Road Town, the capital, is situated on Tortola and has a population of 2,183. The East End/Long Look area of Tortola has a population of 1,847. Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin (averaging about 15% of population) the population is of African extraction.

Chapter 2: Occupation, Wages and Labour Organisation

WITH continued economic recession, the drift of immigrants and natives to find work in other territories also continued. Nevertheless the number of unemployed remained estimated at about 400-500 out of a total labour force of some 3,000. This places the unemployed percentage at about 15%. Some 274 skilled and unskilled workers registered for employment. This figure only slightly exceeds that for 1971 (272) but is vastly greater than the number registered in previous years owing mainly to increased use of the employment agency facilities.

Wages continued to fluctuate a good deal between similar types of work owing to the increased unemployment and the resultant lowering of the value of labour, and consideration is being given to the possibility of introducing minimum wages orders. Government continues to be the single largest employer of labour with approximately 623 workers employed including established staff. The construction industry, hotel industry and commercial services follow consecutively in terms of manpower numbers.

The Non-belongers (Restriction as to Employment or Occupation) Ordinance (No. 5 of 1969) remains the operative law under which work permits may be issued to expatriates resident in the territory. A total of 1,516 work permits to engage in employment were issued or renewed as against 2,090 in 1971, while 111 permits were issued to persons to engage in business as compared with 101 in 1971. The increase in business permits issued in 1972 is attributable to the tightening up of the system resulting in the issue of permits to individuals who previously worked without obtaining permission. The fees charged for work permits are \$10.00 for domestic work, \$20.00 for other types of work and for operation of businesses \$50.00 per annum.

The following basic requirements governing the issue of work permits continue in effect:-

- (1) The unavailability of British Virgin Islanders for the particular job required;
- (2) Satisfactory police reports and health certificates;
- (3) Immigration Bonds certifying that funds are available for repatriation purposes, if it becomes necessary.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance allows a proportion of hotel employees to be expatriate workers since certain posts which require skills or technical ability are not available locally. There is legislation, the Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, which sets out the procedure for wage fixing in the territory, and Section 2 of the Act states *inter alia*:

- (1) Whenever the Governor deems it expedient that steps should be taken to regulate the wages paid in any occupation in the Colony he may, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint an Advisory Committee to investigate the conditions of employment in such occupation and to make recommendations as to the minimum wages which should be payable.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall include representatives of employees and such other members as the Governor may deem fit.

Government wage rates are somewhat lower than those paid by private enterprise, the rates for certain categories of workers being as follows:-

General labourers	\$8.50 per day
Skilled workers	\$10.00 – \$16.00 per day
Heavy equipment operators	\$16.00 per day

Two labour unions were set up during the year. However, the onus of responsibility to act as conciliator in disputes between employers and employees is vested in the Labour Commissioner, duly appointed under the Labour Ordinance. Sixty nine labour disputes were recorded for the year 1972 as compared with fifty in 1971. The Workman's Compensation Ordinance as amended continues to be the operative law governing claims in respect of industrial accidents.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

PUBLIC FINANCE

THE year 1972 saw further increases in government revenue and expenditure on recurrent account, provisional figures showing revenue at \$3,575,918 and expenditure at \$4,640,992. Summary figures for the past five years showing also the recurrent deficit and receipts of grant-in-aid from HMG are as follows (in \$'000):-

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Deficit</i>	<i>O.S.A.S. Reimbursed</i>	<i>Grant- in-Aid</i>
1968	1,357	1,625	238	30	312
1969	2,189	2,567	312	66	210
1970	3,141	3,449	308	–	–
1971	3,047	4,024	977	–	1,113
1972	3,576	4,641	1,065	–	1,175

A comparison of the 1972 out-turn with the preceeding year is given in more detail by Heads of Revenue and Expenditure in the following table:-

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>
Customs & Excise	1,086,718	1,197,397
Ports & Harbours	24,895	20,449
Taxes & Licences	863,278	1,008,398
Fines & Forfeitures	12,635	10,566
Government Department & Services	251,679	318,272
Post Office	93,024	142,731
Rent of Government Property	110,698	77,704
Interest	22,015	14,529
Miscellaneous Services	63,688	45,234
Electricity	518,682	740,638
TOTAL	3,047,312	3,575,918

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>
Governor	305,283	47,358
Administration		
Audit	15,510	16,445
Finance	345,712	383,526
Judicial	48,900	48,555
Legal	31,739	38,154
Pensions and Gratuities	152,807	238,694
Police and Prisons	206,007	224,399
Public Debt	428,406	740,593
Chief Minister's Office	150,327	161,186
Education	703,570	735,135
Legislature	34,177	35,402
Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health	65,351	43,098
Agriculture	59,660	49,443
Public Health	473,693	462,161
Survey	(a)	41,844
Ministry of Communications, Works and Industry	97,223	87,702
Public Works	478,939	546,685
Electricity	427,158	431,111
TOTAL	4,024,462	4,640,992

(a) included with Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health.

It will be seen that a large part of the increase of \$528,000 in recurrent revenue was attributable to a rise in receipts from the sale of electricity, following the connection to the public supply early in

1972 of Little Dix Bay Hotel which is now easily the largest single consumer. The biggest source of revenue remains customs duties which again provided one-third of total revenue. Collections increased by over \$100,000 although the value of imports showed little change, reflecting a full year's proceeds from the selective increases in rates of duty introduced in September 1971. The increase of \$145,000 recorded for tax and licence revenue was spread widely over most of the main sources e.g. passenger, employment and hotel accommodation tax, but the most notable increase was in income tax. A total of \$347,759 was collected from this source, including substantial arrears, compared with \$270,797 in 1971. Most of the rise in the total for "Government Departments" reflects a change in accounting for the P.W.D. garage rather than a true increase. Post Office receipts were well up on 1971 as a result of a number of successful special stamp issues.

Expenditure rose by \$616,530 to a total of \$4,640,992. Slightly more than one half of this increase was attributable to the servicing of the public debt, 1972 being the year in which the first instalments of principal on the local bank loans raised in 1969/71 fell due. Other notable expenditure increases were recorded against Pensions and Gratuities (rise of \$85,887) and Public Works. Part of the increase for the latter, as in Revenue, reflects an accounting change but there was also increased expenditure on maintenance. Smaller increases were recorded for Finance (arising partly from expenditure incurred in earlier years being brought to charge and partly to the inclusion of port operating expenses for the first time), Education and sundry other departments. Despite the big increase in output, the Electricity Department managed to restrain the increase in its expenditure to a very small addition, and there was a notable saving of about \$23,000 on refuse collection which is included under Public Health.

On the crude figures given earlier, it appears that the recurrent deficit increased in 1972 as compared with the preceding year, but if certain necessary adjustments are made, the reverse may be seen to be the case. On the expenditure side, the acceleration of debt repayments and the bringing to account of expenditure incurred in earlier years has been noted already. True expenditure for 1972 is overstated by some \$95,000 for these reasons. On the other hand, revenue is understated by an estimated \$55,000 since receipts from Port Purcell have not yet been credited in the Accounts pending further consideration of the future organisation of the port. Taking these adjustments into account, a small reduction in the deficit was achieved in 1972.

Capital expenditure amounted to approximately \$1.25 million, much the same as in 1968 and 1969, after very high rates of expenditure in 1970 and 1971. Work on the Electricity Extension Scheme and on Port Purcell was completed during the year as was the new office building and depot for the Public Works Department. The primary school building and road construction programmes both continued but at reduced levels, and work proceeded throughout the year on the Beef Island Airport Terminal Building. Most of this expenditure was financed by British Development Aid Grants, receipts of which at \$1,019,186 were slightly less than in the two previous years (1970 \$1,247,366; 1971 \$1,160,391).

TAXATION

Income Tax is chargeable at the rate of 3% on total income and an additional 12% after deduction of generous allowances. As regards income from abroad double taxation relief treaties have been in effect for some time between the territory and the U.K., Canada, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Revision of the treaty with the U.K. which lapsed in 1972 is still under consideration. Arrangements exist for the grant of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries, which offer similar reciprocal relief. Revenue is collected in the form of Land and House Taxes, Hotel Accommodation Taxes and Stamp Duties under the Land and House Tax Ordinance as amended, the Hotel Accommodation (Taxation) Ordinance and the Stamp Act respectively. Additional revenue is derived from licences on trade, liquor, boats and animals.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE territory is in a unique currency position, the sole legal tender being the United States dollar, although the territory is a part of the old sterling area. The currency of the United States of America had been the de facto currency in general circulation for almost two decades before it became legal tender in 1959. The territory itself has no exchange control restrictions and dollars may be freely transferred in or out. During the course of 1973 the territory will issue its own coins with full legal tender status. While they will be

used as a medium of exchange along with the current legal tender, the U.S. dollar, B.V.I. coins will issue primarily with the collector in mind and it is hoped that the scheme will become a significant and continuing source of Government revenue.

A new banking law came into effect during the course of 1972 and, in addition to causing the old Aliens Bankers Act to be repealed, it will have the effect of regulating the activity of banking and other financial institutions within the territory and in the case of B.V.I. banking corporations without the territory as well. There are now six financial institutions, including five commercial banks operating in the territory, namely:- the Virgin Islands National Bank (established May, 1961), Barclays Bank International (established 1965), the Bank of Nova Scotia (established 1969), the Chase Manhattan Bank (established 1968), the Commercial Bank of Tortola Ltd. (established 1972), and the Provident Trust Company (Tortola) Ltd. (established 1969).

Chapter 5: Commerce

DIRECT SHIPPING SERVICES from the U.K., Europe and the United States continued. There has been a considerable decrease in the amount of imports from the U.K. and Commonwealth Countries due to economic recession and the departure of a large number of immigrants and residents from the territory since 1969/70.

The deep water berth, Port Purcell, was completed and opened for traffic by Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret on 8th March, 1972. The facilities formerly used for landing cargo are now used exclusively for passenger traffic.

The Inter Virgin Islands ferry service and cargo and passenger traffic between the British Virgin Islands and the American Virgin Islands continued in operation and there was daily intercourse between both groups. A considerable amount of cargo, particularly building supplies, was imported from Puerto Rico.

Chapter 6: Production

Industrial and General

The main industry in the British Virgin Islands is tourism. The territory now has a fully organised Tourist Board, the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, which was appointed in November, 1971 under the terms of the Tourist Board Ordinance of 1968. Under this Ordinance, the Board is charged with the following duties:-

- (a) to promote, foster and develop the tourist trade of the Virgin Islands and to promote its efficiency;
- (b) to promote, foster and encourage tourist investment within the Virgin Islands by such measures as the Board may deem fit and especially the development of such amenities as may be calculated to enhance the Virgin Islands as a holiday, pleasure or health resort.

The Tourist Board is affiliated to the Eastern Caribbean Tourist Association and is represented in the United Kingdom by the West India Committee.

The Board met ten times during the year and its Executive Secretary, members and also the Chief Minister made several promotional visits overseas. During the year two seminars were attended which were entirely Tourist-originated. The first was sponsored by the Caribbean Travel Association and held in San Juan, Puerto Rico early in January. The B.V.I. was represented by the Chief Minister and a strong delegation. The second was held in London in May and was sponsored by the West India Committee. Again the Chief Minister and a strong delegation attended. The base for the first seminar was for the Caribbean to understand the vast international challenge they faced in tourism and to look at ways to promote a lasting tourist trade. The London seminar was notable perhaps for its bringing to the fore the lack of knowledge of the Caribbean by the Travel Industry in Europe and the reverse in that the Caribbean did not know what the European market wanted. Out of this meeting came the embryo Caribbean European Tourist Association and a planning committee was set up.

Another tourist body in the B.V.I. is the B.V.I. Hotel and Tourist Association. Its Executive Committee met jointly with the Board on two occasions during the year, the outcome of which was a closer working relationship between the two bodies.

Tourist visitors in 1972 showed an increase of 16% over 1971, the

total number of visitors in 1972 amounting to 44,800. Tourist arrivals since 1967 are indicated below for comparison.

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
16,800	22,800	29,500	33,100	38,600	44,800

The Board's finances were derived almost entirely from the Government in the form of a subvention amounting to \$47,749.56. Smaller contributions were made by E.C.T.A. and the B.V.I. Tourist and Hotel Association. Expenditure during 1972 amounted to \$49,014.

Agriculture and Fisheries

During the first half of 1972, the Department of Agriculture aimed at improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products in the British Virgin Islands.

Planting material was prepared at the government nurseries and seeds were obtained from reputable overseas dealers for distribution throughout the territory.

Essential drugs were purchased and veterinary services were rendered free of charge to uplift the level of animal health.

On the night of July 26th, a disastrous fire of unknown origin gutted the entire building occupied by the department. There was a total loss of agricultural and veterinary supplies and office records and furniture. Nevertheless, officers were able to provide data from diaries and work done during the second half of 1972. These premises also housed the Medical & Health Clinic.

The staff of the Agricultural Department in 1972 included one Agricultural Officer (a second was away in training), four Agricultural Assistants and an Executive Officer. The activities of the Department continue to include the provision of planting material, the improvement and extension of pastures, the protection of forests and the conservation of soil and water, the encouragement of fishing (largely through the medium of a loan scheme) and the fostering of livestock production by providing breeding stock to farmers and encouraging good animal husbandry. The total expenditure on Agriculture in 1972 was \$49,443, as compared with \$59,660 in 1971.

Since the very substantial decline in Agricultural output in the early sixties, agricultural activity has never improved to any appreciable extent, and the territory cannot yet be regarded as an "Agricultural Community". The number of families solely dependent on agriculture are very few. A number of self-employed persons, how-

ever, engage in fishing both for domestic consumption and for export to the neighbouring U.S. Virgin Islands and there are definite signs of improvement in this industry.

Weather Conditions

The total rainfall recorded at the Paraquita Bay Livestock Station for 1972 was 29.41 inches and at Road Town 38.56 inches. In 1971 precipitation in Road Town was 52.09 inches.

Monthly rainfall figures for Road Town for the period 1965–1972 are shown below.

RAINFALL 1965–1972

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
1965	1.68	0.49	0.66	4.08	11.61	2.92
1966	4.34	1.91	1.99	7.54	1.28	2.58
1967	1.36	2.63	0.45	0.30	4.03	3.44
1968	1.98	2.75	2.56	2.28	3.02	5.00
1969	3.61	7.77	0.82	0.62	16.28	4.12
1970	1.98	—	2.49	4.90	4.90	2.40
1971	4.96	3.18	1.73	4.14	6.28	2.81
1972	2.10	3.60	3.51	3.30	1.78	1.41
<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Total</i>
4.11	4.77	4.43	5.53	3.99	4.05	48.38
5.63	4.03	6.59	5.64	5.38	3.85	51.09
2.33	2.43	2.60	6.26	7.29	1.70	34.82
3.48	2.12	5.87	8.17	7.95	6.64	51.82
3.13	7.46	3.53	5.66	11.57	2.54	67.11
4.13	2.55	4.45	20.10	9.09	8.63	62.02
1.91	5.33	3.25	8.04	5.45	5.01	52.09
1.95	2.50*	4.27	5.88	1.19	4.07	38.56

*Estimated

Crop Production

The production of food crops such as bananas, tannias, yams, sweet potatoes and cassava showed considerable improvement over production in 1971. Production of limes and dried coconuts also increased, as farmers became more aware of the need to increase production both for local consumption and for export. There are plans to set up a food crop production project at Paraquita Bay in an effort to stimulate production by farmers. The scarcity and unreliability of rainfall, however, is a serious threat to increased agricultural output. Sugar cane production continued on the decline due to high labour costs and low returns to the farmer. A few small patches provided produce for the manufacture of rum. The softer varieties were sold for chewing. The following shows the distribution of planting material during 1972:-

<i>Plants</i>	<i>Type of Planting Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Bananas	Suckers	600
Sweet Peppers	Seedlings	1,560
	Seeds	$\frac{1}{2}$ pound
Potato (sweet)	Cuttings	5,000
Eggplant	Seedlings	1,390
	Seeds	$\frac{1}{2}$ pound
Cabbage	Seedlings	5,300
	Seeds	2 pounds
Tomato	Seedlings	7,000
	Seeds	1 pound
Chinese Cabbage	Seedlings	4,000
	Seeds	2 pounds
Kohl Rabi	Seedlings	7,200
	Seeds	1 pound
Carrots	Seeds	2 pounds
Celery	Seedlings	4,300
Parsley	Seedlings	4,000
Thyme	Seeds	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds
Lettuce	Seedlings	345
	Seeds	1 pound
Beans	Seeds	3 pounds
Bread Fruit	Slips	1 dozen
Limes	Slips	25
Ornamentals	Slips	600
	Cuttings	540

Animal Production

The department of Agriculture continued to assist by way of loans for pasture improvement and the distribution and/or sales of planting material.

There has been a marked increase in the growth of the livestock population throughout the territory, particularly in the cases of sheep in Virgin Gorda and cattle in Tortola and Jost Van Dyke. Six poultry farms were in operation during 1972, and increasing interest is being shown in this industry. Local production, however, falls short of satisfying domestic consumption even though livestock exports to the U.S. Virgin Islands have declined somewhat. The health condition of the livestock remained satisfactory throughout the year but it was not possible to control completely the prevalence of cattle ticks, although the department maintained dipping vats in Tortola and in Jost Van Dyke. Knapsack sprayers have been used extensively.

The Government stock farm at Paraquita Bay continued to provide replacement stock (mainly cattle and sheep) to farmers throughout the year.

Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation

Forestry conservation work was done jointly by the Government and by a voluntary body, the National Parks Trust. The Government's energies continued to be channelled along the following lines:

- (a) the supervision of previously declared "water areas" along water courses and springs;
- (b) the encouragement of tree planting on steep slopes or land suitable for general agriculture;
- (c) the production of seedlings for distribution to farmers;
- (d) the establishment of orchards near to water areas.

Throughout 1972 seedlings of mahogany and red and white cedar were made available to the public. The maintenance and reforestation of the primeval rain forest, a protected area at Mt. Sage continue to be the responsibility of the National Parks Trust. The forest serves as a tourist attraction.

Surveys

The Survey Department continued to be within the portfolio of the Minister of Natural Resources and Public Health. A small field party from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys were in the territory for a short period during 1972 to undertake some check measurements associated with control work on Anegada. The field revision of the 1:2,500 map series was undertaken by a cartographer from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys. By the end of the year final transparencies had been completed. The completed series cover almost a third of Tortola and approximately two-thirds of Virgin

Gorda with some coverage of Beef Island. Skeleton detail sheets were also supplied to assist the Regional Cadastral Survey and Registration Project team in their work. Air photography records were also completed during the year. Copies of all official photography taken over the period 1946 to 1969 are now held by the department. The Cadastral Survey and Registration Project which got underway in late 1971 had, by the end of 1972, completed surveys and land registration of the areas, including Beef Island and surrounding cays, along with the eastern section of Tortola and the Southern Cays.

Land Utilisation and Tenure

Comparing the economic situation reflected in the 1971 report, there is little tangible evidence of improvement during 1972. However, the situation is expected to change in the years that lie ahead, principally because of the increasing interest shown in land purchase with the development commitments given to commence in 1973.

The regulations governing the holding of land by non-British Virgin Islanders continue to be the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act. In order to ensure that development commitments given on the issue of Aliens Land Holding licences are met, appropriate amendments to the Ordinance have been proposed for enactment.

Compared with 68 licences issued in 1971 a total of 76 have been issued in 1972 together with development commitments amounting to over \$1.5 million.

In July 1971, the Government of the British Virgin Islands acquired for \$US 5.8 million (a sum advanced by the United Kingdom Government) the assets and interests of two expatriate-owned companies, namely the Development Corporation of Anegada Ltd. and Wickham's Cay Company Ltd., the main assets of the latter being 70 acres of reclaimed land in Road Harbour.

Shankland Cox and Associates, of London, a firm of development planners and architects, and three other specialist firms were engaged (under United Kingdom technical assistance auspices) to prepare plans for the development of the properties formerly owned by the companies. The report on the development of Wickham's Cay was presented to the Government of the territory in July 1972. It was divided into three parts: (a) a summary of the basic studies undertaken by the development consultants and an examination of the tourist potential in the British Virgin Islands; (b) alternative rates of growth in the tourist industry; and (c) a full development plan for Wickham's Cay with details of phasing, financial implica-

tions and terms for disposal of the land.

Among the recommendations made in the report, the following are regarded as being the most important;

- (a) To develop Wickham's Cay as the shopping, commercial and entertainment centre of Road Town, with the old part of Road Town integrated into the development;
- (b) To develop the marina as a major yachting centre with berths for up to 300 yachts;
- (c) To build two hotels, a cinema, bars, restaurants and night clubs;
- (d) To provide parking for over 900 cars;
- (e) To make land available in a variety of plot sizes in order to attract both large and small investors; and
- (f) To spend a total sum of approximately \$US 2.5 million on engineering, a sea wall, storm and foul water drainage and removal of silt from the marina.

It was also recommended that a statutory development corporation be established with powers to secure the development of the cay. Finally, it was recommended that this development be ideally achieved over a 15-year period consisting of three 5-year phases.

The Government accepted the report as a working document forming a sound basis for the planning and development of the cay. It was estimated that remedial engineering works on drainage etc. would cost \$US 1.8 million. The Government considered it important that Wickham's Cay be brought into operation at the earliest possible time; and to this end a project manager was appointed, in order to give immediate attention to the more urgent aspects of the project.

A paper containing the development plan for Anegada prepared by Shankland Cox and Associates was introduced at a meeting of the Legislative Council, held on 5th October. The Government was in broad agreement with the objectives of the plan and favoured a combination of the two ideas for the tourist industry: either development on a moderate scale initially, increasing to a larger scale in the long-term, or, alternatively, keeping tourist development small and leaving the remainder of the island untouched. In connection with the conclusion of the consultants that the best opportunities for expanding the economy of Anegada lay in tourism, the possibility that some other major industry might play a leading part in the development of island has not been ruled out. For the near future, negotiations were proceeding with private interests for operation of the hotel and use of the houses owned by the Government;

arrangements were made for improvement of the airstrip; and the provision of electric power was under consideration.

Mining and Corporative Development

During the year under review, various international mining Companies expressed interest in carrying out offshore exploratory work in the territorial waters; other applications indicated interest in exploiting other mineral resources of the territory.

Legislation covering mineral and petroleum mining was enacted during 1972 and careful consideration is being given to the interests shown by those companies which have indicated a wish to be granted licences for the exploitation of these natural resources.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

EDUCATION remained under the portfolio of the Chief Minister, the Hon. Willard Wheatley, M.B.E.

Graduation Ceremony – B.V.I. High School

Eighty-four school leavers were awarded High School Diplomas at the Graduation Ceremony of the High School at the time of the Annual Speech Day. To obtain a Diploma, satisfactory academic standards must be reached in at least three subjects.

Advisory Bodies

(a) The Board of Education

The Minister is advised by a Board of Education, of which he is Chairman, which met five times during the year.

(b) The B.V.I. High School Committee

This Committee whose Chairman is the Chief Education Officer has very limited executive powers, but as its membership includes four representatives of parents from different areas in the territory it is able to speak on behalf of the Community and give advice to the Principal on matters affecting the work and welfare of the school. It met twice during the year.

(c) *The Primary Schools Commission*

This Commission under the Chairmanship of the Chief Education Officer, met six times during the year. In accordance with Regulations made under the Education Ordinance it has power to deal with all questions of staff management and discipline in the 14 primary schools, 11 of which are now Government schools. Discussions continued about the future of the Commission in relation to the Board of Education, and to the Public Service Commission.

Costs of Education

15.4% of the total recurrent budget was allocated to Education. There was a modest increase (5½%) in the overall recurrent costs for the year, actual expenditure being \$703,570 in 1971 and \$742,106 in 1972.

The recurrent cost per pupil at the High School was approximately \$380; the cost per pupil in the primary schools was \$190 per annum.

A total of \$US 55,643.70 was spent during the year by the Public Works Department in completing the projects on primary school buildings, started in preceding years. The major items of expenditure were \$13,448.85 at Long Look, \$9,904.36 at Anegada, \$6,600 at Meyers, \$10,362.00 at Sea Cow's Bay and \$10,083.55 at St. Phillip's. Of the grant of \$49,000 given by the Smedwig Trust, \$18,960.74 was spent within the year on the completion of the new two-storey block which came into use in the September term.

Visit of H.R.H. Princess Margaret

On 8th March, 1972, Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, visited the High School and attended a Youth Rally on the Road Town Primary School grounds.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Two meetings were held during the year to revive interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which is now once again active.

Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration

A representative of the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration visited on 19th October with a view to promoting interest among senior members of the staff of the High School and the primary schools in educational improvement.

Caribbean Examinations Council

The Government of the British Virgin Islands agreed to participate in the formation of this Council. The Chief Education Officer was nominated to represent the Government in the Council. As part of the organisation of the Council, a National Committee was appointed which had its first meeting on 16th November. The National Committee advised the Examinations Committee of the Council on the types of syllabuses and examinations considered appropriate for use in the system.

Primary and Post Primary Schools

School attendance and enrolment

School attendance continued to show a high average percentage of regularity. The total numbers enrolled fell slightly, being 1,871 in 1972 as against 1,913 in 1971. 82 pupils are in post-primary sections of the schools.

Staffing

The proportion of teachers to pupils is 78 teachers to 1,871 pupils; that is 1 to 24; 36 of the 78 teachers are trained.

Teacher Training

Two teachers successfully completed the University of the West Indies Inservice Course with nine others being partly successful. Fifteen teachers are away on training courses and a programme of inservice training for which the Education Officer (Training) is responsible is slowly improving the overall performance of teachers in the schools.

Curriculum Review

Members of the staff of the Department attended special meetings of Head Teachers and senior assistant teachers to discuss school administration problems or matters of curriculum replanning.

The Curriculum Revision Committee which was set up by the Teachers' Association met several times during the year.

The School Survey

The survey of primary schools which began late in 1971 was completed early in the year by a panel of staff from the Education Department. A summary of the main recommendations was com-

piled and used as a basis for discussion at staff meetings and meetings of the Board of Education.

Private Schools

There were few changes during the year in the seven private primary schools. One school closed and another was opened. Enrolment in these schools is 242, 120 boys and 122 girls. They serve a useful purpose, particularly in providing education below the normal age of entry to the Government primary schools. They depend entirely on fees to meet the salaries of teachers and overhead costs of operation.

The Seventh Day Adventist School at Carrot Bay is the only private school providing for primary and post primary age levels on a full-time basis. The construction of a new school to replace the one presently used as a church and school was started during the year.

Secondary Education

The B.V.I. High School Staff

The former Principal of the British Virgin Islands High School, a Jamaican, completed his 2-year tour of duty and left the territory. He was succeeded by an appropriately trained local teacher.

Of the staff of 47 (21 men and 26 women) there are 16 graduates, 8 of whom are trained, and 31 assistants, of whom 12 are trained teachers, some seconded from the primary system. The number of pupils rose from 745 to 807 and some arrangement of courses in the September term to include Economics and 'A' level work in English and History involved additional staff time. The Department was fortunate in finding thirteen suitably qualified staff to fill vacancies which arose in the September term and to teach the additional courses. Two of these teachers returned from special training abroad in art and crafts and technical subjects respectively.

Buildings

The Smedwig building was built and equipped by a grant made by a Norwegian Company and officially opened on 14th December to provide facilities for a reasonably wide choice of courses in woodwork, metal-work, electronics, automobile engineering, as well as in secretarial studies and home economics.

Pupils

There were, at 31st December, 363 boys and 444 girls in the school. The Student Council and the project system have helped to give training in leadership. The House pattern of sport organisation provides a basis for healthy competition.

Newsletter

The school produced each term an interesting newsletter which gave parents and guardians news of events in the school and the results of external examinations, in addition to informative articles.

'A' Level Classes

One major experimental development during the year was the starting of 'A' level classes in Economics, English and History which it is hoped will form the nucleus of a sixth form and provide the requirements for entry to Colleges of higher education abroad.

Higher and Further Education

On the departure of the Evening Institute Organiser, in March, the organisation and supervision of the evening classes were again taken over by the Chief Education Officer. These classes are mainly geared to the taking of GCE 'O' level or LCC examinations or to the RSA examinations in typing and shorthand. All classes are held at the High School and the tutors are nearly all members of the British Virgin Islands High School Staff.

The enrolment of students was as follows:

January term 151; Easter term 82; September term 68.

The numbers usually fall off sharply in the third term, or whenever the examinations for which persons have entered have been taken.

A total of 9 persons (excluding teachers) returned to take up employment in the Government service after successfully completing courses of study at institutions (excluding teacher training) in the Caribbean, Canada, U.K. and U.S. Seven of these were degree courses (including 2 post-graduate); and the other two were diplomas in Building Construction (St. Lucia) and Public Administration (U.W.I.). During the year the first B.V.I. student to do so, entered the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill.

Scholarship Programme

Efforts continued to improve the scholarship programme, to

streamline the issue of awards, and orientate the programme more towards the needs of the territory. The Scholarships Committee was reconstituted and given wider terms of reference. It continues to provide valuable advice on the selection of candidates for scholarships.

Three scholarships for degree courses were awarded in 1972, including a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship for dental surgery.

The British Virgin Islands continued to maintain about 20 students at the University of the West Indies and to support it financially. However, in February, 1972 a new 'economic cost' formula for contributions was agreed on which makes each country's contribution proportional to the number of students enrolled from that country. Under this new formula the assessed B.V.I. contributions rose dramatically from \$19,000 for 1971-1972 to \$50,000 for 1972-73.

Library Services

A number of projects introduced during the year - International Book Year - were successfully undertaken. They included a series of library competitions featuring quizzes, story telling, essay and library slogan contests, library radio talks and radio broadcasts. Other activities included a children's book exhibition and poster designing.

Book selection aids and suggestions have been provided for several schools. The Library staff assisted in the organisation of the High School Library, and continued the mobile library service to the rural schools and communities. Efforts were also made to re-establish a library branch in the Valley, Virgin Gorda. Library collections went to Anegada, Jost Van Dyke and North Sound, Virgin Gorda.

Book circulation was as follows:-

Book Circulation

	Adult	Junior	Total
Headquarters	9,179	6,467	15,646
Book Mobile	171	2,089	2,260
Out Islands	200	1,094	1,244
GRAND TOTAL			19,200

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

General

The year has shown some general improvement in the health of

the inhabitants due mainly to a continuation of immunisation projects previously started and some general improvement in environmental sanitation. At the 38 bed hospital no major changes were made.

A major unhappy occurrence was the complete destruction by fire of the Public Health Clinic near the Old Agricultural Station in July. With it went over four years' worth of records up to July 1972, and much valuable equipment, drugs, vaccines and stationery. However, through the generosity of many local firms and individuals, as well as well-wishers overseas, a Public Health Clinic on a new site was functioning effectively within five weeks.

A new project successfully introduced under the auspices of the Red Cross Society, has been the opening of the Fort Charlotte School for children with various handicaps, where volunteer workers are providing the pupils with a satisfying and productive outlet for their energies and the development of skills which might otherwise languish.

Vital Statistics

The birth and death rate showed no significant change. The neonatal death rate is unfortunately high but this is largely due to a high incidence of prematurity in the past year, a factor which is largely outside medical control.

Vital statistics figures are as follows:-

	1972	1971
Live Births	304	301 (corrected)
Still Births	2	5
Birth Rate	30.6	30
Total Deaths*	63	65
Death Rate	6.3	6.4
Infant Deaths	16	
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births	52.6	
Neonatal Deaths	12 (8 associated with prematurity)	
Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 live births	39.4	
Total Deaths 1 to 4 years	16	
*For statistics on causes of death see Appendix "D".		
Maternal Deaths	Nil	
Natural Increase Rate per 1,000 population	24.1	

Mortality

Deaths in the first two years of age constitute 25.4% of total deaths with prematurity by far the greatest single factor. There were no deaths reported from malnutrition and only one from infantile gastro-enteritis.

Medical & Health Staff

The year has seen a number of changes. The Chief Medical Officer left the territory in July and the post was filled substantively later in the year.

Three staff nurses entered upon specialised courses in Midwifery followed by Mental Nursing, Midwifery followed by Theatre Techniques, and Intensive Care followed by Anaesthesia.

Five other nurses are training in Barbados while a local officer has successfully completed his examinations in Radiography and is acquiring additional experience in Electronics and X-ray Maintenance in Jamaica.

Hospital Statistics

Number of hospitals	1	
Number of beds	38	
	1972	1971
Admissions (including new-born babies)	1,226	1,092
Live births	272	262
Still births	2	5
Deaths	30	28
Admissions (excluding new-born babies)	954	
Average stay	8 days	11 days

<i>Hospital Expenditure</i>	\$290,705	\$246,782
Approximate cost per patient per day	\$28.79	\$20.55
Revenue from fees	\$36,760	\$29,652

Out Patient Services

Clinic patients	4,325	3,594
Casualty patients	3,753	4,024

Public Health Clinic Services

The new Central Public Health Clinic was operated smoothly, with regular child welfare, immigration and food handlers and antenatal clinics. In addition, a cervical smear clinic was started,

and at this and the post-natal clinic, family planning advice was given where requested. General clinics were held regularly throughout the territory.

A new development was the diabetic clinic held once weekly in the Central Public Health Clinic in Road Town.

A programme of Poliomyelitis Immunisation was carried out in January–February in view of an outbreak of this disease in Trinidad, and a Yellow Fever Immunisation Programme in September–November with a satisfactory acceptance rate.

A tuberculosis survey was commenced among the school children and some selected adults – school teachers, nurses, etc. – and 3,099 persons were tested.

Immunisation

Poliomyelitis – 1st dose	281	} the earlier doses having been given in 1971
– 2nd dose	194	
– 3rd dose	86	
Reinforcing dose	2,691	} children adults
	103	
D.P.T. – 1st dose	271	
– 2nd dose	170	
– 3rd dose	114	
Reinforcing dose	41	
Tetanus Toxoid – Reinforcing dose (school leavers)	130	
Measles	67	
Yellow Fever	3,325	school children
	2,651	adults
Small Pox Primary	55	
Revaccination	5	children
Clinic	22	adults
Hospital	190	adults

	Children	Adults	Total
Tine Tuberculin Tested	1,268	79	1,347
Positive	129	38	167
Negative	978	35	1,013
Failed to attend for reading	161	6	167

Early teenage negative reactors will be offered B.C.G.

Food Handlers Clinics	.	.	.	.	27
Attendance	.	.	.	.	48
Immigration Clinics	.	.	.	.	32
Attendance	.	.	.	.	318
Repatriated	.	.	.	.	19

School Welfare

Schools visits	47
Children dewormed	1,352

Maternity Services

It is satisfactory to note that 89% of patients are delivered in hospital.

	1972	1971
Ante - postnatal clinics	52	154
New cases under 20 weeks	47	
New cases after 20 weeks	87	
Total attendances	404	563
Home visits	13	

Mental Health Services

During 1971 it was decided to treat all mental patients at the Peebles Hospital instead of referring them to the mental hospital in Antigua. The provision of adequate accommodation for acutely disturbed patients in Peebles Hospital while undergoing therapy treatment is being actively considered.

Statistical Summary

(Programme Year: May - December)

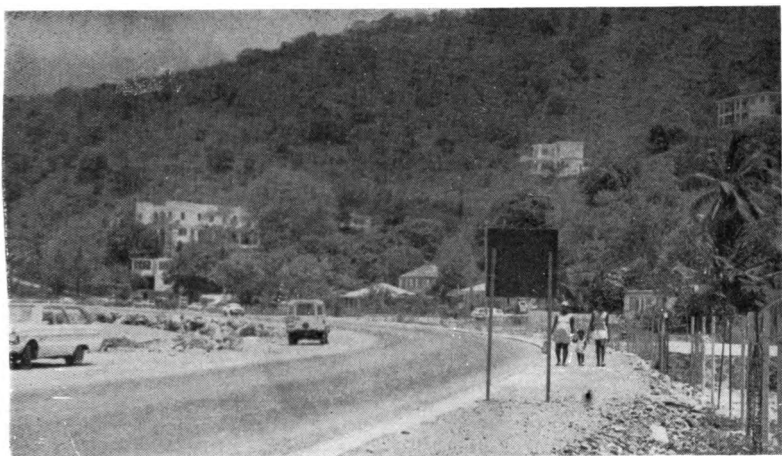
Number of patients seen	89
Percentage psychotic	50%
Percentage on medication	81%
Number of patients hospitalised	8
At Peebles Hospital only	6
At Peebles Hospital then Antigua	2

Environmental Health

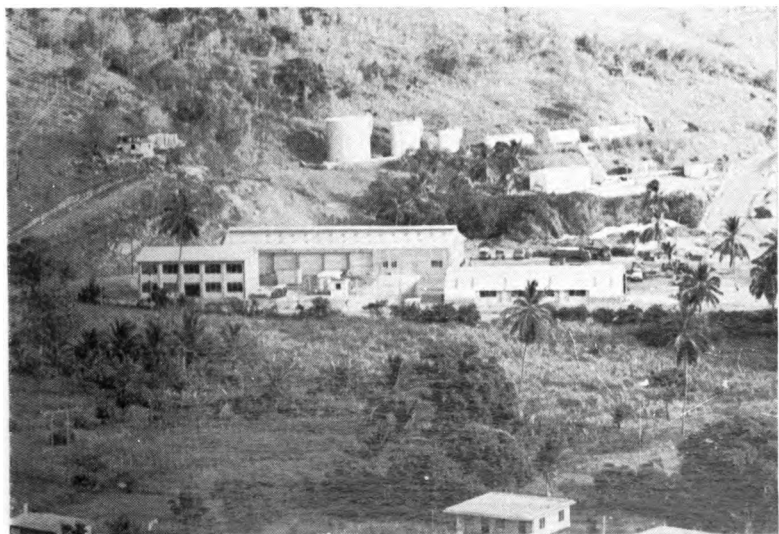
Food Hygiene Regulations were passed at the end of the year while regulations for the control of animals are being considered.

School Health

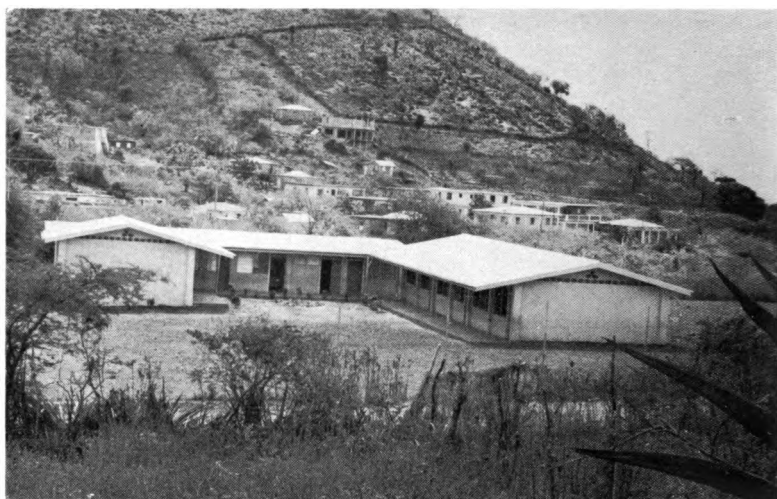
All schools were visited regularly by members of the Health Department and children treated for minor ailments. T.B. tests, antipolio and yellow fever inoculations were given. Free dental services were given to school children throughout the year. There were 1,891 dental attendances as compared with 1,894 in 1971. A scheme of Visual Aid Care was launched with the assistance of various aid sources and a survey of the incidence of deafness was also made during the year.



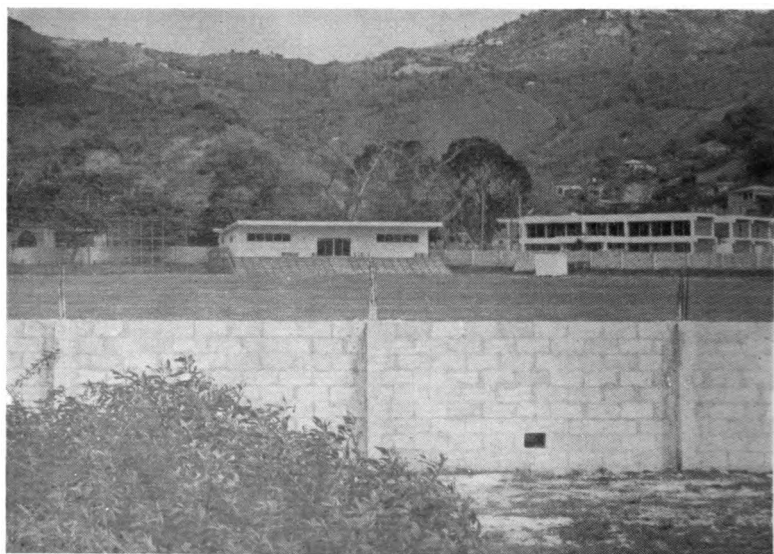
Section of new waterfront road recently completed with Government House at extreme left and Chief Minister's residence at top centre.



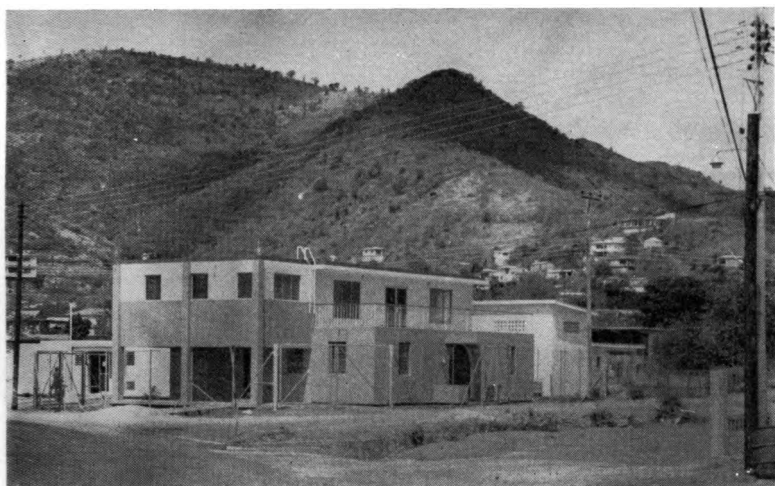
New Public Works Department Depot relocated in 1972 at Baugher's Bay, Tortola.



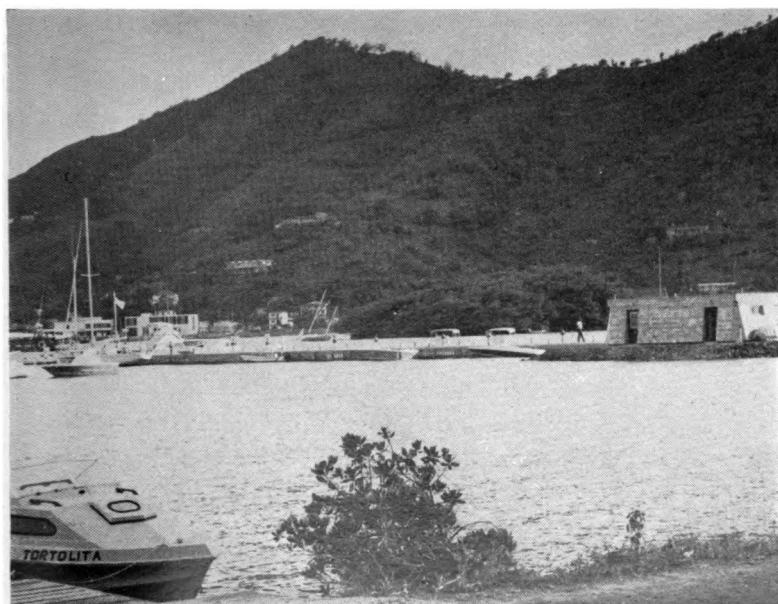
New Primary School, Long Look, built with Development Aid funds.



Recreation Centre Road Town, with Police Headquarters in right background. Pavilion at Centre built with funds donated by the Cripps Foundation.



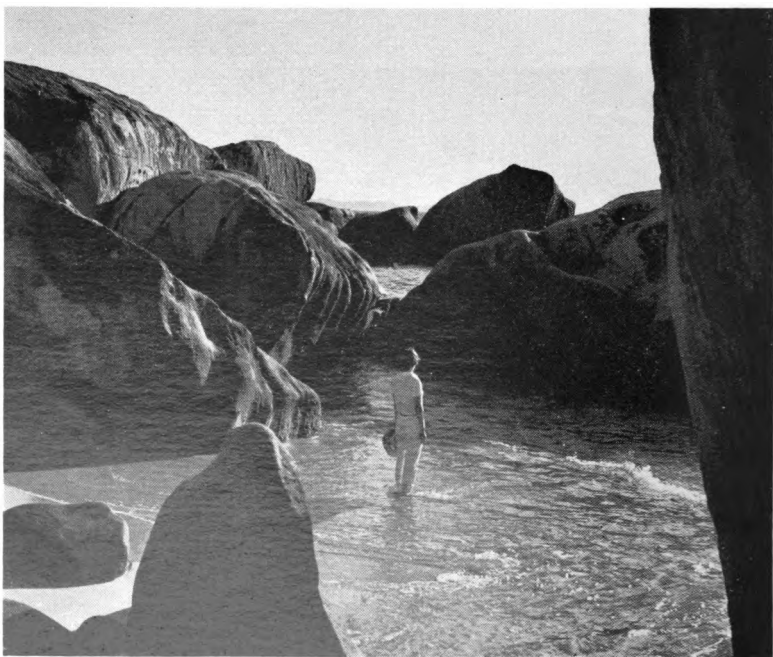
New Police Station, East End/Long Look, Tortola, built with Development Aid funds.



Treasure Isle Marina, an added facility to Treasure Isle Hotel, Tortola.



Local fishing scene, depicting traditional fishing methods.



Section of Baths, Virgin Gorda, famous for its huge boulders—a tourist attraction.

Prison Health Services

The Medical Officers continued to visit Her Majesty's Prison attending to inmates of the Prison.

Dental Services

1972 has been a very busy year in the dental surgery and the high figures for items of treatment carried out have been maintained, as indicated in the following summary:-

	1972	1971
Number of attendances by school children	1,891	1,894
Number of teeth extracted	2,139	2,116
Number of teeth filled	1,220	1,430

Thus it is seen that two teeth are extracted for every one saved by filling and it is hoped that this ratio will be improved upon in following years.

Active consideration is now being given to replacing some of the obsolete equipment which has been in use since 1968 when the Dental Clinic began operation.

Surgical Services

There was a full operating day every Tuesday, mainly for major surgical cases. Minor operations were performed on alternate Thursdays. On the Thursdays which were not occupied by operations at Peebles Hospital, and provided that his surgical commitments in Road Town permitted, the Medical Officer/Surgeon was "loaned" to the medical services in Anguilla where he did a list of surgical cases selected by the medical staff there. His work at Peebles Hospital has priority in this respect, but it was only necessary to cancel the Anguilla visit for this reason. This system of mutual aid has been working well.

The range of surgical work carried out at Peebles Hospital is shown at Appendix 'B'. The total number of operations performed (exclusive of dentistry) is considerably greater than in 1971.

Laboratory Services

A total of 10,004 investigations, 1,500 more than last year, were undertaken (see Appendix 'C').

Garbage Collection and Disposal

In 1971 collection and disposal were fully in the hands of contractors and cost the territory \$109,362 for a service embracing almost all of Tortola and one half of Virgin Gorda.

In 1972 the phasing out of this system started with the Public Health Department taking over responsibility for the area covered by one contractor and one half of the area of another, and carrying out these functions by direct labour.

During the year, a collection and disposal service on a contractual basis was started for the first time in the North Sound, Virgin Gorda, and the periodic cleaning up and burying of garbage in Jost Van Dyke was initiated by the Public Health Department using direct labour.

The dumpsites at Coxheath, Carrot Bay and East End were closed and disposal of garbage was concentrated at Duffs Bottom. This removed the necessity of maintaining four dumpsites along with two dumpsite wardens as in 1971, and was an economic success.

The dumpsite at Duffs Bottom was fenced at no cost to Government. The Beautification Committee financed the posts, cement and laths while the Public Health Department found and transported sand and gravel and found spare labour capacity – not employed specifically for this purpose – by staggering working hours, and obtained galvanize for fencing free of cost.

Prior to the arrival of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, a concentrated clean-up campaign, aimed principally at removing derelict vehicles and other discarded household and domestic appliances, along with any other material not in the definition of “house refuse”, was carried out in February 1972.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Community Development and Welfare Office, under the portfolio of the Chief Minister, continued its services to welfare cases and gave financial assistance to approved Youth Organisations mainly concerned with the organisation of sports and community development.

Chapter 8: Legislation

DURING the year 1972 twenty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislature and fifty-seven Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

The most important Ordinances were –

- (a) The Power-craft Ordinance, to regulate the operation and navigation of power-craft;
- (b) The Petroleum Ordinance, to regulate the importation, storage and handling of petroleum;
- (c) The Mining Ordinance, to make provision with regard to prospecting for minerals and mining;
- (d) The Petroleum Mining Ordinance, to make provisions relating to the issue of exploration licences and petroleum agreements with regard to exploration, prospecting and mining for petroleum;
- (e) The Banking Ordinance, to make provision to regulate the business of banking;
- (f) The Port Dues and Charges Ordinances, to raise ships', berthing port and other dues and charges for the use of the ports and port facilities;
- (g) The Tonnage Duty Ordinance, to raise charges on the tonnage of vessels entering the territory for the first time each year and enable the correct tonnage of licenced boats to be ascertained.

Of the Statutory Rules and Orders the most important were –

- (a) The Registered Land Rules;
- (b) The Vehicles and Road Traffic (Fees and Duties) Amendment;
- (c) The Public Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations;
- (d) The Proclamation to commence the Winding up of the Virgin Islands Savings Bank;
- (e) The Hospital (Amendment) Regulations;
- (f) The Harbours and Wharves (Rates of Wharfage Dues) Regulations.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

JUSTICE is administered in the territory by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court comprising the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice; the Court of Summary Jurisdiction; the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court.

COURT OF APPEAL

The Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice and two Justices of Appeal sits in the territory at times selected by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice sits as the President of this Court. Appeals from the High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court lie to the Court of Appeal. In certain cases there is also a further appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council.

HIGH COURT

The High Court is presided over by a Puisne Judge. It has an original Jurisdiction in all matters which are heard and determined by the High Court of Justice in England. The Chief Justice may select the Judge assigned to any State to exercise the jurisdiction of the Court in relation to the Virgin Islands. The Puisne Judge resident in the State of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla was accordingly selected to exercise this responsibility in the Virgin Islands.

General sittings of the High Court in its criminal and civil jurisdiction were held during the months of March and October. Special sittings for the hearing of civil cases were also held during the year.

COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without pleadings for the trial of civil cases where the sum claimed does not exceed \$840.00 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed \$1,200.00. The Court is presided over by the Puisne Judge.

THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

The Magistrate's Court hears and determines complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of \$360.00 in contract and \$180.00 in tort. The territory is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the Court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act.

THE JUVENILE COURT

The Magistrate, sitting with two assessors, presides over the Juvenile Court.

Statistics of Civil and Criminal Appeals, Civil and Criminal cases tried by the High Court, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court during 1972 are given below:-

High Court Criminal Appeals

No. of Appeals filed	1
No. pending	1

High Court Civil Appeals

No. of Appeals filed	6
No. pending	5
No. discontinued	1

Magisterial Criminal Appeals

No. of Appeals filed	-
No. withdrawn	-

Magisterial Civil Appeals

No. of Appeals filed	1
No. withdrawn	1

Court of Summary Jurisdiction Appeals

No. of Appeals filed	-
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High Court - Criminal 6

High Court - Civil 64

High Court - Summary -

Civil Cases

No. of Suits	133
No. heard	75
Otherwise disposed of	40
Outstanding	18

Criminal Cases

No. brought	484
No. heard	472
No. of convictions	336
No. of acquittals	73
Otherwise disposed of	51
Outstanding	12

Juvenile Court

No. brought	18
No. heard	18
No. of convictions	10
No. of acquittals	1
Otherwise disposed of	7
Outstanding	-

Summary Punishment

Imprisonment	3
Fines	239

POLICE

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force was established on 26th February, 1967 as a result of constitutional changes in the Leeward Islands. Prior to that time the police force in the Virgin Islands formed part of the Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Police Force which originated from the old Leeward Islands Police Force.

The 1952 Police Act provides for the establishment of the Force and lays down the powers and duties of the Police. The latter is described as "the prevention and detection of crime and the repression of internal disturbance". In addition the Police were responsible for the following services during 1972:-

The Fire Brigade

The examination, registration and licencing of motor vehicles

The licencing of firearms.

The following figures give the establishment and strength of the Force during the years 1969-1972:-

	1969		1970		1971		1972	
	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.
Police								
Chief of Police	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Asst. Supt. of Police	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Inspector of Police	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sergeants	2	2	2	2	4	4	6	5
Corporals	6	6	8	8	12	11	11	11
M/Constables	19	17	23	23	28	25	35	32
W/Constables	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	31	27	38	38	48	45	56	52

There are four Police Stations throughout the territory, situated at Road Town, Long Swamp and Carrot Bay in Tortola and the Valley, Virgin Gorda.

Command

The Royal British Virgin Islands Police Force remained under the command of Mr. B. E. Graves until 4th April, 1972, when he left the territory on vacation leave. He resumed duty on 13th July, 1972. In his absence the Force was commanded by the Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Honours and Awards

During 1972 nine Local Constables were awarded Special Constabulary Long Service Medals.

Housing

The construction of the new Police Headquarters in Road Town was completed during the year and is now occupied. The building has barrack accommodation for fifty men.

Construction of the new Police Station at East End was started during the year and by the year's end was nearing completion.

A suitable site was located for the West End Police Station but construction had not yet started at the end of the year.

Finance

Comparative expenditure figures for the years 1969-1972 are set out below:-

	1969	1970	1971	1972
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Personal Emoluments	98,916	133,850	176,084	187,830
Other Charges	31,431	33,593	42,093	42,532
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	130,347	164,443	218,177	230,362
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Recruiting and Training

Section 13 of the Police Act lays down that no person shall be appointed as constable unless:-

- (i) he has attained the age of 19 years but not reached 35 years;
- (ii) his height is at least 5 feet 8 inches;
- (iii) he passes a medical examination;
- (iv) he is of good character;
- (v) he has a minimum education of standard 7.

Thirteen male police constables who met the above requirement joined the Force during 1972. Of these, twelve were from the British Virgin Islands and one from St. Vincent. Of the twelve recruits from the British Virgin Islands one had already undergone recruit training. Of the remaining eleven, eight were sent to the Regional Police Training Centre in Barbados and were still there at the end of the year. Three are due to go to the U.K. in 1973 for recruit training.

The policy of the Government of the British Virgin Islands is to encourage local men and women to join the force and until the very encouraging response in 1972 there was great difficulty in finding suitable recruits.

No full-time Police training was available in the territory during the year. In-service training for junior SPOs and constables takes the form of bi-weekly lectures.

Most untrained recruits are sent to the Regional Police Training Centre, Barbados, for a six-month initial training course. High School graduates have been accepted for U.K. training courses, but it is not established that this will be a regular practice.

Four constables attended a refresher course at the Regional Police Training Centre in 1972. One Inspector and one Sergeant attended the Overseas Police Officers General Course at the Metropolitan Police Training School, London. One Sergeant and one Corporal attended the Special Branch Desk Officers Course in London.

CRIME AND C.I.D.

Crime

The crime figures for 1972 showed a small increase over 1971. Police investigated a total of 319 reports against 302 in 1971. The number of true reports was 258 as compared with 182 in 1971.

Comparative figures for the main categories of crime over the period 1969-1972 are as follows:-

	1969	1970	1971	1972
<i>Offences Against Lawful Authority:</i>				
True Cases	10	7	2	4
Convicted cases	6	4	-	-
Acquitted cases	-	-	-	-
Withdrawn cases	1	1	1	3
Undetected cases	-	-	-	-
Pending cases	3	2	1	1
<i>Offences Against Public Morality:</i>				
True cases	7	11	7	1
Convicted cases	1	-	-	-
Acquitted cases	-	2	1	-
Withdrawn cases	-	-	-	1
Undetected cases	3	6	-	-
Pending cases	3	2	1	-
Under investigation	-	1	5	-
<i>Offences Against The Person:</i>				
True cases	49	64	111	56
Convicted cases	22	29	48	17
Acquitted cases	10	4	13	-
Withdrawn cases	9	1	12	5
Undetected cases	4	6	6	19
Pending cases	4	4	11	7
Under investigation	-	20	21	8

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Offences Against Property:				
True cases	169	176	182	258
Convicted cases	22	15	16	16
Acquitted cases	12	6	2	8
Withdrawn cases	10	10	3	11
Undetected cases	92	108	103	168
Pending cases	33	4	3	8
Under investigation	—	33	55	47

Offences Against The Penal Code:

True cases	2	4	—	—
Convicted cases	1	1	—	—
Acquitted cases	1	—	—	—
Withdrawn cases	—	1	—	—
Undetected cases	—	2	—	—
Pending cases	—	—	—	—

Offences Against Local Laws:

True Reports				
Traffic	311	408	474	346
Others	343	301	173	123
	<u>654</u>	<u>709</u>	<u>647</u>	<u>469</u>

Comparative figures for the disposal of cases over the same period are as follows:-

True cases	654	709	647	469
Convicted cases	420	372	325	314
Acquitted cases	36	105	45	51
Withdrawn cases	48	126	53	24
Undetected cases	24	14	63	23
Pending cases	126	43	116	39
Under investigation	—	49	45	18

Juvenile Delinquency

A total of five juveniles (i.e. persons under the age of 16 years) were convicted during the year 1972 for the following offences —

Offences Against Property	3
Traffic Violations	2
Minor Offences	—

Criminal Investigation Department

The 1972 crime establishment continues to show a disappointingly low detection rate particularly in those offences where the

culprits are not readily identifiable. 1972 statistics are set out below:-

	<i>True Reports</i>	<i>Convictions</i>
Theft and allied offences	199	13
Robbery and Extortion	1	1
Breakages	32	1
False pretences	1	—
Receiving	7	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	240	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>

As regards forensic and technical aids, the territory is fortunate in having access to such facilities in the United States Virgin Islands.

TRAFFIC

Registration and Licencing of Vehicles

At the end of 1972 a total of 1,291 motor vehicles were registered and licensed for use on the public roads of the territory, an increase of 336 over the 1971 figure. It should be noted that figures shown in previous annual reports represent total registrations without accounting for subtraction of wastage. Revised figures for 1968–1972 are as follows:-

<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>
329	750	833	955	1291

Road Accidents

143 road accidents occurred during 1972 in which 3 persons were killed and 82 injured. Comparative figures from 1969–1972 are as follows:-

	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>
Total Accidents	201	210	150	143
Persons killed	3	4	—	3
Persons injured	47	45	37	82

Driving Tests

During 1972 Police remained responsible for the testing of drivers. Driving tests totalled 415 for 1971 as compared with 523 for 1972.

Examination of Vehicles

A trained motor mechanic examines motor vehicles for road worthiness prior to issuing annual motor vehicle licences.

Fire Brigade

In 1970 the Fire Brigade was amalgamated with the police force. A weekly training programme for volunteer firemen including civilian volunteers were conducted during 1972.

In 1972 24 fires were dealt with by the police. There were no casualties resulting from such fires. In all these cases, assistance was given to the Brigade by members of the public.

Marine Station

A marine section, established in 1971, was active during 1972 with 1 sergeant and 2 constables. The 40 feet fast patrol craft purchased in 1971 has been used extensively for anti-smuggling patrols.

Auxiliary Units

At the end of 1972, there were 23 local constables distributed as follows:-

Road Town	4	Frenchman's Cay	1
Baughers Bay	1	Carrot Bay	1
East End Tortola	2	Cane Garden Bay	2
Brewers Bay	2	Peter Island	1
Jost Van Dyke	2	Salt Island	1
Chalwell	1	Virgin Gorda	4
Belle Vue	-	Anegada	1

Other Police Duties

Revenue Collection

Police remained responsible for the sale of drivers licences, motor vehicle licences, firearms licences and bicycle licences. Revenue collected during 1971 and 1972 are as follows:-

	1971	1972
	\$	\$
Drivers Licences	5,275.00	5,677.15
Motor Vehicle Licences	25,063.99	23,412.78
Firearms Licences	574.68	448.38
Bicycle Licences (and other fees)	784.50	385.00

Film Censorship

The Chief of Police was a member of the Censor Board, appointed by the Governor under the provisions of section 4 of the Cinematographs Ordinance, Cap. 211. No regulations have yet been

made under this Ordinance governing the powers and duties of the Board.

Control of Firearms

Permits to keep and carry firearms were issued by the police after consultation with the Governor. At the end of 1972 the firearms registered in the territory were as follows:-

Rifles	24
Shotguns	48
Handguns	15
	—
Total	87
	—

PRISONS

General

The British Virgin Islands Prison Service is established under the Prisons Ordinance which remained without amendment during 1972. The Service comes within the portfolio of the Chief Minister.

Prison accommodation remained unaltered during the year 1972, except that more office space was made available when the new police station was completed and the Force moved out to the new premises. The Gaol's general insecurity, lack of space and absence of minimal amenities have been commented on in previous reports and plans are now being made to improve the situation and to obtain advice on the measures needed to provide adequate accommodation.

Administration and Staff

During 1972, there was no change in the basic administrative structure of the Service which remained under the Command of the Chief of Police who is also designated as Keeper of Prison. The establishment of Prison Staff consists of one Prison Corporal and two Prison Warders. The visiting Justices of the Prison carried out their regular schedule of visits and inspections.

Health and Diet

No serious health problems were encountered during the year. Government Medical Officers visited the Prison whenever required.

Diet is in accordance with the provisions of the Prison Ordinance and is adequate and generally received without complaint. Efforts were made to start a system of bulk-buying foodstuffs to avoid excessive costs but the small prison population and the shortage of staff to enforce proper control prevented this from being an economical exercise. The situation is being kept under review and may be instituted if the prison population justifies it.

Prison Statistics 1972

Table 1 Prison Population 1972, (Types of Prisoners)

		<i>Total</i>	
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
<i>Prison State at 1st January, 1972</i>			
Convicted	7	-	
Remanded in Custody	-	-	
In Default	-	-	
		7	-
<i>Prison Admissions During 1972</i>			
Convicted	6	1	
Remanded in Custody	12	1	
In Default	3	-	
		21	2
<i>Total Prison Population 1972</i>		28	2
<i>Prison Discharge During 1972</i>			
Convicted	6	1	
Remanded in Custody	12	1	
In Default	3	-	
Executed	1	-	
		22	2
<i>Prison State at 31st December, 1972</i>			
Convicted	6	-	
Remanded in Custody	-	-	
In Default	-	-	
Sentence to Death	-	-	
		6	-

*Table II Prison Population 1972
(Age Groups of Convicted Prisoners Received)*

Under 16 years	-	-
16 years and under 21 years	2	-
21 years and under 25 years	4	1
25 years and under 50 years	-	-
Over 50 years	-	-
	6	1

Table III Prison Population 1972
(Sentences of Convicted Prisoners Received)

Under 1 month	-	-	
1 month and under 3 months	1	-	
3 months and under 6 months	1	1	
6 months and under 12 months	1	-	
12 months and under 18 months	1	-	
18 months and over	1	-	
Life Imprisonment	-	-	
Sentence to Death	1	-	
			6 1

Table IV Prison Population 1972
(Offences of Convicted Prisoners Received)

Against the Person	1	-	
Against Property	4	-	
Non-payment of fines	-	-	
Others	1	1	
			6 1

Table V Prison Service Expenditure, 1970 to 1972

	1970	1971	1972
Personal Emoluments and			(\$5,421.00)
Temporary Assistance	\$8,045.49	\$7,977.94	(\$1,707.30)
Provisions and Necessities	3,725.30	3,328.60	3,252.16
Clothing and Equipment	907.48	481.25	598.69
Prison Warders Uniforms	94.60	15.00	-
Grants to Discharged Prisoners	44.00	48.00	43.00
Sanitation	98.75	40.95	31.28
Medical and Dental	44.35	103.00	40.00
	<u>\$12,959.97</u>	<u>\$11,994.74</u>	<u>\$11,093.43</u>

Chapter 10: Public Utilities

ELECTRICITY

General

1972 was a year of steady expansion. New consumer connections increased by 11%, sales of electricity by 56.4% and revenue by

46.8%. This expansion has been achieved with \$57,212 increase in total operating costs.

The Board continued to operate within the framework of the Virgin Islands Electricity Ordinance. Under the provisions of this Ordinance, the Governor appoints the Electricity Board consisting of five members, three of whom are official members and two other members.

Electricity supply falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Communications, Works and Industry and through that Office the Electricity Board has access to the Executive Council for guidance and decisions on general policy, but financial control is exercised by the Governor through his Financial Secretary.

The National Electricity Development Scheme was completed during the year the total capital expenditure being \$3,450,000. The capital loans have been raised with the cooperation of local banks, but repayments on capital account are controlled by the Government's Finance Office. Recurrent Revenue for 1972 amounted to \$796,149 while Recurrent Expenditure totalled \$442,147. There was an operating deficit of \$115,998 when Capital charges of \$470,000 were taken into account.

Transmission and Distribution

The transmission and distribution system has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. Careful maintenance as a continuous process has resulted in a minimum of outages through breakdown of plant and equipment. During the year \$88,049 was spent on maintenance which is to be compared with an amount of \$96,622 for 1971, a cost reduction of 9% for an increased line maintenance mileage of 20 miles. The distribution section is under the direct control of the Technical Officer (Distribution) who, with the use of the department's direct labour, has constructed high voltage and low voltage extension lines to specification standards.

The transmission and distribution system consists of:-

- 59 Miles 13,200 volt transmission line
- 26 Miles 208/126 volt distribution line
- 5,000 KVA transformer capacity
- 16 Miles 13,200 volt undersea cable
- Services 2,408
- 5 Miles 13,200 volt underground cable
- 29 - 13,200 volt automatic oil circuit breakers

Transmission and Distribution plant represents a cost of

\$2,750,000 and their maintenance cost expressed as a percentage is 3.2%.

The General Electric Company completed the Transmission and Distribution contract in Virgin Gorda during July 1972.

Long Term Policy

The Commonwealth Development Corporation carried through a survey of the Electricity Supply Industry in the British Virgin Islands and they will be reporting to government in the near future. Their terms of reference include a review of system growth and capital investment over the next ten (10) years.

Total units (KWH) generated as compared with previous years are shown below with the annual percentage increase shown in brackets.

1969	1970	1971	1972
4,202,825	6,046,643	7,411,799	10,901,179
	(44%)	(22.5%)	(47.1%)

Forty one streetlight fittings were installed in 1972 bringing the total commissioned to three thousand and five.

The total number of consumers connected to the system at the end of 1972 was 2,408 an increase over the previous year of 238 or 11%.

Units (KWH) sold during the year with previous years sales given for comparison are tabulated below. Annual percentage increase is shown in brackets.

1969	1970	1971	1972
3,603,624	5,091,096	6,185,644	9,679,759
	(41%)	(21.4%)	(56.4%)

PUBLIC WORKS

Water Supplies

An existing 14 ft. well at Lower Estate was deepened by another 7 ft. and fitted with two deep water turbine pumps, with capacities of 200 and 100 gallons per minute respectively. This well will now form part of a new ring collector system. Sixty three (63) new water connections were made in the Road Town Water Supply area. Household water supplies throughout the territory, however, still depend to a large extent on private cisterns. Wells dug in two locations in Road Town yielded very little water and were thus abandoned.

Building Projects

During 1972 a new Public Works Department complex, including offices, workshop and stores was completed and ready for occupation. A new office to be used as the Governor's Office and Executive Council Chamber, with space for an additional office was completed. Extensive repairs and renovation were carried out at Government House in order to improve the standard of accommodation. The first phase was completed just prior to the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret and added greatly to the amenities of the residence. Servant's quarters at Government House were also renovated. Three new schools were constructed, furnished and occupied during the year and warehouse accommodation provided at Port Purcell.

Roads

Maintenance works on paved roads at East End, Cane Garden Bay and Sophie Bay continued throughout 1972. Capital road projects were undertaken as follows:-

Three miles of roadway surfaced on the Road Town - West End Road;

Reconstructed surfaces placed on a large stretch of the Road Town - East End road as well as a portion of the Ridge road;

A new Waterfront road in Road Town was partially completed. There are now about forty (40) miles of motorable roads in the territory.

Chapter 11

COMMUNICATIONS

A RELIABLE daily launch service exists between the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands. Beef Island Airport, which was opened in April 1969, has a runway of 3,200 feet and is capable of receiving Avro 748 50-seat turbo-jet aircraft. Construction of a new terminal building was commenced to improve the accommodation at the airport. Airstrips exist on Anegada and Virgin Gorda. The airstrip in Virgin Gorda is privately owned but operated for public use.

Scheduled and chartered air services were operated by Leeward Islands Air Transport, PRINAIR, All Island Air, White Sands Aviation, Caribbean Air Services, Anguilla Airways, Dorado Wings and Trade Winds.

Shipping services to the territory include the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company from London and Amsterdam, Atlantic Lines from New York, Booker Lines from Liverpool, FLYFFES Lines from Southampton and PANAM Lines from Miami.

Cable and Wireless Ltd. continued to operate the territory's telephone and telegraph communications. There are approximately 800 telephone lines in use throughout the territory.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Film & Information Services

THE ISLAND SUN, published weekly, is the only local newspaper, with a circulation of 1,500.

There is a commercial radio station (ZBVI) located at Baughers Bay, Tortola, which has been in operation since 1964. The Station operates at 780 kilocycles with 10,000 watts and covers most of the Eastern Caribbean.

There is one cinema – the Carib Theatre – in Road Town which shows feature films. The British news-reels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information were shown by the Community Development Department and were made available to voluntary organisations.

The Government issues news releases informing press, radio and the public of all Government news of general interest. Fact sheets and hand-outs are also available at the Tourist Office to persons desiring information on the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, contain over forty British Islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St. Kitts, and straddle latitude $18^{\circ}25'N$ and longitude $64^{\circ}30'W$. They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution, the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles, are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit, lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass, so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide, it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is

comparatively flat. All the remaining islands, except Anegada, rise precipitously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments, into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metalliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams, with frequent outcrops of bare rocks. Anegada has very little soil; limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a subtropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87°F., and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes sometimes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches have been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, and it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When felling are made, any trees too short to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places, the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes, mainly *Croton*

rigidus. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola. Being of scientific interest, this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes, mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 20 per cent of the population live in Road Town, the capital of the territory, and its environs. A slightly lower percentage live in East End/Long Look the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out-islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only a few families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Three of these, Guana Island, Peter Island and Marina Cay, are tourist resorts.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the territory. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops – sugar cane, cotton tobacco and others – but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported. The supply of fresh fruit and

vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a livestock industry.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income, went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. However, the demand for labour in the United States Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist industry, seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the territory can never become economically viable with small-scale agriculture and livestock raising as a base and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' natural features for tourism. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various islands to each other and the surrounding sea provide a setting for tourists. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a centre for boating and fishing enthusiasts. The economic outlook, therefore, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November, 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgenes in honour of St. Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595, when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St. Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St. Kitts. Eight years later, several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile, pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and Constitutional Government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million pounds, (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, the Sir Francis Drake Channel became a rendezvous for British ships homeward bound and the presence of numerous merchant ships brought a good deal of trade to Tortola. With the end of these wars there commenced a period of decline and by the time of the abolition of slavery, 1st August, 1838, the trade of the islands was languishing. The landed proprietors left and the islands continued to decline economically until by 1900 the whole export and import trade was valued at only £6,199.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of 6 non-elected members—three ex-officio and three nominated—was substituted. In 1872, the Federation of the Leeward Islands was created and the separate colonies, including the British Virgin Islands, became Presidencies. In 1889, the official designation of President was, however, changed to Commissioner. In 1902, the Legislative Council was abolished.

A Legislative Council with elected representatives was re-introduced in 1950. This system of Government continued, with

minor changes, until 1967 when, under a revised Constitution, the Ministerial System of Government was introduced into the territory for the first time. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker, chosen from outside the Council, two *ex-officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) one Nominated Member, appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven Elected Members returned from seven one-member electoral districts. The Executive Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two *ex-officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) the Chief Minister appointed by the Governor as the Elected Member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. Responsibility for defence and internal security, internal affairs, the Civil Service, Finance and the Administration of the Courts rests with the Governor.

Following the decline of the plantation system, the territory became a society of small farmers and fishermen. A large number of the younger population migrated to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands where employment opportunities were afforded to them particularly since the Second World War, as a result of the development taking place there. In view of this trend and the importance of St. Thomas as an entrepot port and a shopping centre, the economy of the islands has been, and still is, closely bound up with that of their American neighbours. The currency in both official and practical use is the United States dollar, the territory being the only place in the sterling area where this obtains.

Following are some of the important dates in the territory's history.

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch Buccaneers
- 1666 Party of English Buccaneers drove out the Dutch
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda
- 1717 First Census
- 1727 First Quaker Missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda
- 1741 John Pickering – first Governor
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke
- 1745 First Anglican Missionary arrived
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice
- 1773 Constitutional Government granted

- 1774 Legislature met for the first time
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look
- 1789 First Wesleyan Missionary arrived
- 1807 Abolition of Slave Trade
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge
- 1816 St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate Colony
- 1819 Severe Hurricane
- 1838 Abolition of Slavery
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution: Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts
- 1872 Federation of Leeward Islands
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council
- 1916 Severe Hurricane
- 1924 Severe Hurricane
- 1950 Presidential Legislature reconstituted
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands Colony and establishment of Colony of the Virgin Islands
- 1960 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December, 1959 and the Administrator became the Queen's Representative
- 1966 Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- 1967 Revised Constitution introduced from 30th March, 1967 bringing Ministerial Government into effect
- 1972 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

The Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into force of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I. No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2 chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony (Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) into separate colonies.

A new constitution was brought into effect by the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order 1967, in April 1967. It provided for the first

time for a Ministerial system. The Governor remains responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of the courts and finance, and continues to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council is comprised of the Governor as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Justice was formerly administered in the territory by the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court, and a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court visited the islands twice a year. With the replacement of the Supreme Court by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, arrangements have been made for this Court to serve the Virgin Islands.

Local Government

There were no local government organisations in the territory and little or no interest was shown in this subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial Weights and Measures are used in the territory. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government Inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

A fuller bibliography including a number of older works was included in the report for 1970. The following list is selective.

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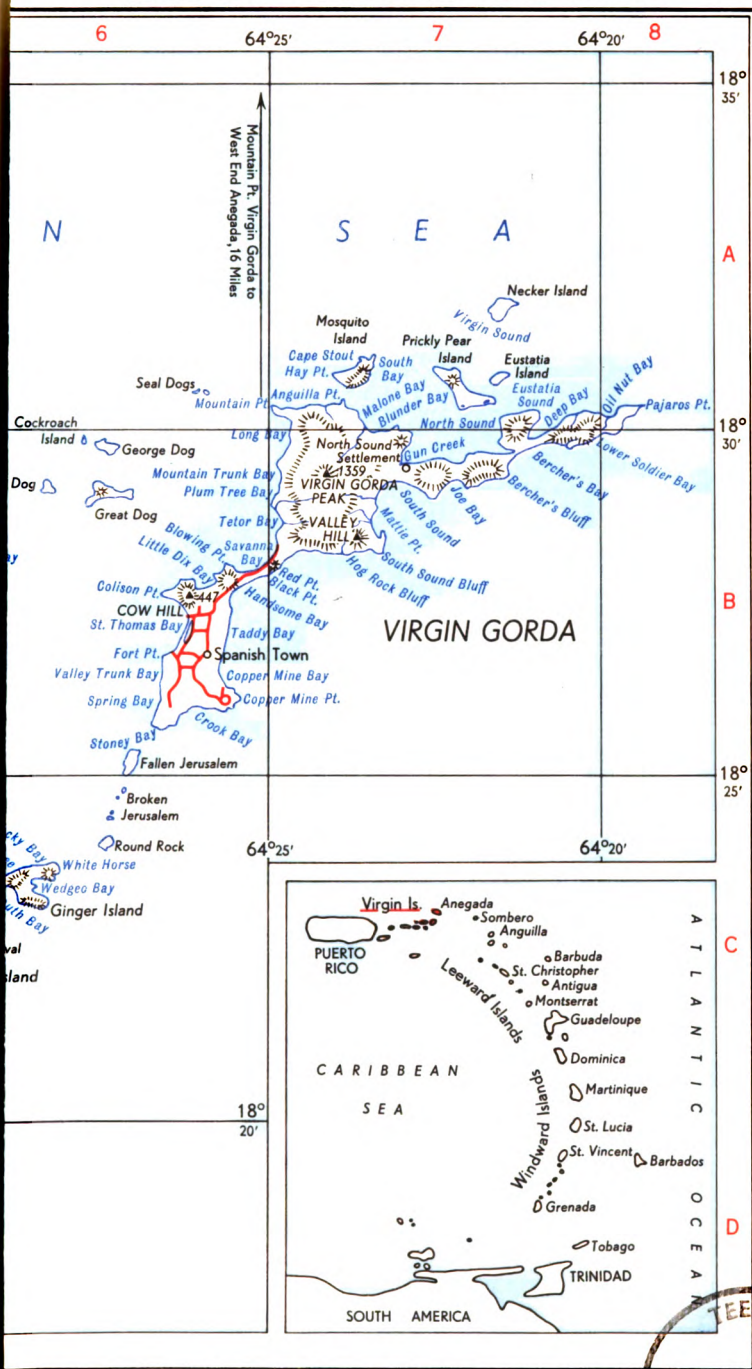
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